

Hafa Adai!

NMTI furloughs most employees. **PAGE 2**

NMI awarded over \$4M for COVID-19 response. **PAGE 5**

75¢

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CHC test tags positive case

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI has one new confirmed positive COVID-19 case, raising the CNMI's confirmed total to 14 and making the newest case the first time to be confirmed locally through the Commonwealth Health Center laboratory. Also, more coronavirus test kits arrived in the CNMI last Saturday from South Korea, brought in by an Asiana Airlines flight.

According to a statement from the COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Health Care Corp., the new COVID-19 case involves a

57-year-old woman who is in stable condition.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, the patient is currently in

AT A GLANCE

As of 3:35pm, April 19, 2020

GUAM	CNMI
Positive: 136	Positive: 14
Recovered: 112	Recovered: 9
Deaths: 6*	Deaths: 2
*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt	
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.	

isolation at the Kanoa Resort in Supe, where she is being monitored by CHCC's medical team. CHCC has started contact tracing for the patient's most immediate contacts, which includes close family mem-

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This frame grab shows an Asiana Airlines flight as it lands at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Saturday to bring a supply of 5,000 coronavirus test kits.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Reinstate? Reassign? Navy to decide fate of fired captain

In this image provided by the U.S. Navy, Capt. Brett Crozier, then-commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), addresses the crew on Jan. 17, 2020, in San Diego, Calif.



By LOLITA C. BALDOR and
ROBERT BURNS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy's top admiral will soon decide the fate of the ship captain who was fired after pleading for command-

ers to move faster to safeguard his coronavirus-infected crew on the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

In the glare of a public spotlight, Adm. Mike Gilday will decide whether Navy Capt. Brett Crozier stepped out of line when he went around his chain of command and

sent an email pushing for action to stem the outbreak. As of Friday, 660 sailors on the aircraft carrier, now docked at Guam, had tested positive for the virus and seven were hospitalized. One sailor has died, and more than 4,000 of the ship's 5,000

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Publisher Younis writes 30

» Aside from publishing, Younis also designed Joeten Hafa Adai logo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Abed E. Younis, the founding publisher of the longest running newspaper in the CNMI, *Marianas Variety*, passed away from natural causes Saturday morning at his home in Dandan. He was 83.



Younis

Younis is survived by his former wife, Maria Paz Tudela Castro, and six children—Banny, Laila, Amier, Farah, Suaad, and Salam.

Marianas Variety publisher Laila Younis Boyer said yester-

See YOUNIS on Page 4

Skymark extends flight suspension to May 31

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Skymark Airlines Inc. has extended the suspension of all flight operations between Narita and Saipan until May 31, 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Skymark said they made the de-



King-Hinds

cision in response to decreased travel demand due to the global coronavirus outbreak and the enforcement of quarantine measures by the CNMI and Japanese governments.

Skymark said they will reach out to customers with an applicable flight

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The Shack Saipan extends food credit to furloughed teachers for the next three months.

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Governors are moving to ease restrictions meant to control the spread of the coronavirus.

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Orthodox priests in much of Europe held Easter services in empty churches on Sunday.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMTI issues furlough letters to most employees

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute officially issued furlough letters to majority of their staff last Friday due to their inability to sustain pay-

roll payments as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a board meeting last Friday, NMTI issued furlough letters to 18 of their staff, including instructors. NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres said that NMTI has a little

over 20 employees.

However, four NMTI staff under administrative services were exempted from the furlough and the NMTI administration office remains open from Monday to Thursday.

According to McPhetres,

the furlough was implemented immediately after employees received and signed their notices on April 17.

"[Staff] will be on furlough not to exceed one year. While on furlough, [employees] are not required to work, although

the current contract is still valid," she said.

NMTI had no choice but to furlough majority of their staff because of the tremendous fiscal impact COVID-19 has had on the CNMI thus far.

"Because of the tremendous fiscal impact of COVID-19 on the community, and its effect on the economy of the CNMI, we are obligated to reassess our program delivery and the ability of the CNMI government in assisting NMTI during such a difficult time," McPhetres said.

After an assessment, furloughing the majority of NMTI staff was the only choice, according to her.

"After assessing every avenue as to how best our institution can wisely fulfill its

mission as an educational training institution and safeguard financial responsibility and stability during such predicament, NMTI must implement drastic action that affects the majority of its employees," McPhetres said.

The Public School System also issued notices of furloughs last week to over 700 employees because of their inability to make payroll payments.

According to a letter that PSS sent out on April 13 to all locally funded teachers and staff, they would all be furloughed starting April 15 because PSS is unable pay their salaries.

On top of the furlough, teachers and staff have yet to be paid for the last payroll and PSS still owes them 30% of the payroll before that.

Delayed salary prompts complaints

Local employees of a construction company that has a construction contract with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino-resort project in Garapan are complaining that they have not received their salary for about one to two weeks now.

About 30 employees of AM Construction Group gathered in front and near their building

in western Garapan to wait for their salary last Friday starting at 8am.

One employee was even carrying a placard that read: "Please pay for our sweat today. Why wait?"

When *Saipan Tribune* left at about 11am, the workers were still outside the com-

pany's office.

When asked for comments yesterday, IPI said the company is experiencing issues with fund transfer, which caused the payroll delay. "We are doing all we can to ensure employee payroll disbursements are released as soon as possible

and apologize for the inconvenience this has caused," IPI said.

An AM Construction supervisor told *Saipan Tribune* Friday morning that they don't know yet when the workers would get their salary. He did not elaborate.

A crane rigger said they already had a meeting with the company's representatives Friday morning, but were told they could not promise to give their salary that day, Friday. The crane rigger, who requested anonymity, said the representatives told them to just wait, which is why they were still outside the company's office. He said some of them have been protesting the non-payment of salary since last week.

Another worker said their company should pay them, regardless of their problem with IPI. "We are the ones suffering. We have bills to pay, too," one worker said.

He said they worked only for two hours that day, Friday, and were told to stop work. (Ferdie De La Torre)

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

With the participation of its member organizations, the United Filipino Organizations distributed relief goods to some families, starting last Good Friday. To date, a total of 100 bags of 20-lb rice, 200 bags of 10-lb rice, and 200 packs of assorted canned goods have been distributed. UFO president Marcelo V. Masilungan assured that the distribution followed safe distancing protocol. "We would like to thank our business partners, Karidat Social Services and LBC Express (Saipan), for their continued support to the UFO in bringing help to the community," he said.



UFO

CUC health advisory

Since 2016, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has regularly detected levels of PFOS and PFOA that exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency lifetime Health Advisory level of 70 parts per trillion in a limited area of its drinking water system. CUC is advising customers in the following villages to avoid drinking or cooking with the water: Chalan Laulau, Iliying, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, San Jose, and parts of southern Garapan, Gualo Rai, Susupe, As Lito, and As Perdido.

The EPA lifetime health advisory level is an amount below which no harm is expected from PFOS and PFOA based on a daily consumption of water over a lifetime. A proven way to remove PFOS and PFOA is to filter the contaminated water through a granulated activated carbon system. CUC is actively pursuing funds to buy and install GAC systems.

Until CUC has GAC systems, we have tried to reduce the amount of PFOS and PFOA in the water by removing a total of 10 wells that contain high levels of PFOS and PFOA. The last two wells were turned off on Jan. 30, 2020, and a sample was collected on Feb. 4, 2020, from the As Terlaje Tank that serves the affected areas. The sample contained 25 parts per trillion PFOS and this is below the EPA health advisory. We do not have the results from another sample collected on March 23, 2020, but we expect it to be higher than 25 ppt because PFOS and PFOA moves throughout the underground water field.



Area Inside Red Line May Receive Water That Exceeds The EPA Lifetime Health IL Advisory Level of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS/PFOA. cuc

Although the February sample was below the EPA health advisory level, CUC advises consumers in the affected areas to avoid ingesting the water until CUC has installed the GAC filtration systems that will reliably reduce the amounts of PFOS and PFOA below the EPA health advisory level. Consumers within the affected areas should not drink tap water, cook with tap water, or make ice for consumption with tap water. The CUC water can be used for bathing or washing dishes or clothes as PFOS and PFOA do not move easily through the skin. CUC is making this advisory action to help the affected population limit their lifetime exposure to these chemicals.

For more information about PFOA and PFOS visit EPA's webpage <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos> or the BECQ Safe Drinking Water Program at (670) 664-8500. (PR)

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Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

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\$100 fine for social distancing violators

People caught violating the 6-foot social distancing mandates will be fined \$100 on their first offense.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered the strict implementation

of social distancing protocols in the Commonwealth mid-March, immediately after Guam reported its first three confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.

At that time, the CNMI

still had no cases. Now, with 14 confirmed cases to date, with nine recoveries, and two deaths, infection rate on the island has remained low. With the community following the

strict social distancing directive all over the island, there have been no sharp increases in COVID-19 cases in the CNMI.

The governor announced a new social distancing guidance last Friday, which includes a compilation of renewed emergency directives, and the additional enforcement authority for its more effective implementation.

“By following these guidelines, we can continue to keep our islands safe and protect our *man’amko*, our chronically ill, and our loved ones. Let’s stay vigilant, patient, and committed, Marianas. To-

gether, we will overcome this pandemic,” Torres said.

Under the social distancing mandate on the updated emergency directive, residents are advised to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart in all public areas, such as in public beaches, pathways, and businesses.

Exercise, wellness (including swimming), and subsistence fishing at public beaches, and activity on pathways, are only allowed from 6am to 6pm daily, and are subject to this social distancing protocol.

It is also prohibited for more than 10 people to gather in a single room or single space, at the same time, for social, spiritual, and recreational activi-

ties. This includes, but is not limited to community, civic, public leisure, faith-based, or sporting events. Such gatherings are also prohibited in parades, concerts, festivals, fiestas, conventions, fundraisers, and similar activities.

Violators will be fined \$100 for the first offense, a fine of \$250 and/or up to three days imprisonment for the second offense, and a fine of \$500 and/or up to six months imprisonment for a third offense or more.

Only law enforcement officers, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, and other first responders who are on-duty are excepted from this mandate.

(Iva Maurin)

Castro to legislators: It is our duty to speak up

Instead of pointing fingers of blame, more dialogue and cooperation are needed to address the issues faced by the CNMI, according to Rep. Luis John DLG Castro at a House session last Friday.

With the coronavirus pandemic bringing to the forefront problems in the community, Castro called for more dialogue and cooperation between branches of the government. “This disaster has brought about a lot of problems we as leaders need to come together and square out,” Castro said. “If we’re going to get out of this, more dialogue is needed than finger pointing, more patience and compromise should be shown than scolding, and more collaboration should be exercised than dictation.”

Castro spoke up in response to comments from the Torres administration when some members of the House of Representatives spoke out about directives that they, as legislators, felt there is a need to talk about.

“As officials, it is our duty to speak up when something doesn’t feel right,” Castro said. “When limiting operating hours for businesses was com-

pletely making the mandate of social distancing pointless, I and a few others spoke out.

“I didn’t do what I had to do because I wanted to vent out my personal frustrations but I felt I had to use my voice to speak out for those affected by this. Thankfully, things were changed, and for the most part our community has learned to operate within these directives,” he added.

The CNMI government, as with governments across the world, has been coming up with and recalibrating directives and measures as needed, to ensure that the virus would be contained.

Castro clarified that he has not criticized nor nitpicked how Gov. Ralph DLG Torres or the COVID-19 Task Force are addressing the pandemic, but is grateful for the steps they have taken to combat COVID-19. However, Castro objects to being “told to run things through certain individuals” before using his voice to inform and initiate dialogues with the community on pressing concerns, which he said is part of a job that he was elected for.

“There have been many instances where their actions have been done without direct

dialogue with us or those that those decisions affected, even though that’s something we as branches are supposed to be doing,” Castro said. “If we are ever to see ourselves out of this situation, we must work collectively instead of individually to solve the dilemmas this pandemic have brought out.” (Iva Maurin)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Office of Planning & Development to construct the Garapan Revitalization Project in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is located in the “Garapan Core” district of Saipan. The project will involve A/E design and construction of improvements to the streets of the Garapan Core. The project will re-grade and re-pave approximately 10,685 total linear feet of streets within the district. Additionally, it will construct concrete curbs and sidewalks on both sides of the streets. Re-paved streets will generally be 24 ft. wide, with minimum 6 ft.-wide sidewalks. The project will include street lighting and landscaping as appropriate for a tourism district in a tropical environment. All construction works will occur within existing public rights-of-way. Streets to be improved include: Plumeria Ave. (north & south sections), Ginger Ave. (north & south sections), Coffee Tree Mall St., Royal Palm Ave., Coconut St., Date St., Paseo de Marianas, Palm St., Micro Beach Rd. (between Coral Tree Av. and Beach Rd.), and Beach Rd. (from Micro Beach Rd. to Garapan St.).

Project information is available for review at Office of Planning & Development, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Caller Box 10007, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or by calling 670-237-2200 or 670-488-1221.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
RDimmick@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm eastern on May 22, 2020, will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude quake hits Rota

At 9:24a, on April 19 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 95 kilometers west-northwest of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Agrihan

At 10:03am on April 18 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 28 kilometers east-southeast of Agrihan in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Tinian ID card service on Wed., Thurs.

The Tinian Mayor’s Office will be offering its municipal identification card services to the public every Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm until such time that the government resumes its normal operating hours. We highly encourage the use of

face masks, and the practice of social distancing while availing of this service. For more information, contact the Tinian Mayor’s Office at (670) 433-1800 or email rcing10@gmail.com. (PR)

MLSC available by phone

The Marianas office of the Micronesia Legal Services Corp. office continues to be closed to public contact but its staff are available by telephone at 234-7729 or 234-6243. We are a private-non-profit organization serving low-income people in the CNMI; we do not charge fees for our legal services. (PR)

Transfer station, landfill hours

The Department of Public Works has announced revised operation hours at the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill. The Lower Base Transfer Station will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base office). Also, the Marpi Landfill will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill Office). (PR)

Fuel prices drop again in just one week

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fuel distributors continue to lower their gas prices with their fourth gas rollback in a month.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. reduced its gas prices again last Friday, just a week following their last rollback and their fourth since the COVID-19 outbreak in the CNMI.

Mobil reduced its gas prices by 10

cents Friday, dropping their fuel prices from \$3.28 per gallon of their Extra fuel to \$3.18, while their Supreme fuel dropped from \$3.73 per gallon to \$3.63 per gallon. Mobil's diesel also dropped by 15 cents from \$3.91 per gallon to \$3.76.

Shell Marianas followed suit, dropping fuel prices the following morning, Saturday.

According to 26-year-old local motorist, who wanted to remain

anonymous, seeing gas prices continue to roll back is a relief for many, including himself.

"It's good. The lowering of gas prices is also a huge help to the community because it lessens our expenses," he said.

However, many, like himself don't need to fill their tanks as often since everyone is scared of the COVID-19 threat.

"Currently, I don't drive as much

support.

In a widely viewed video, Roosevelt crew members applauded and chanted Crozier's name as he walked off the ship after being fired. When Thomas Modly, the acting Navy secretary who fired Crozier, traveled to the ship and criticized him in a speech to the crew, he came under fire and had to resign.

President Donald Trump even suggested that while Crozier shouldn't have sent the memo, he shouldn't be destroyed for having a "bad day."

But reinstating Crozier has its problems.

rapid investigation by Adm. Robert Burke, the vice chief of naval operations. Burke and his staff finished the review in about a week, conducting interviews almost entirely online and by phone between Washington and Guam.

A look at some of Gilday's options, and their benefits and pitfalls.

REINSTATEMENT:

Gilday could decide that Crozier acted in the best interests of his crew and was unfairly removed. He could reinstate him as captain of the Roosevelt.

That could generate a lot of

vice, and we will continue to ensure his legacy lives on within our closely knit Commonwealth," Torres and Palacios said.

Younis first published the *Marianas Variety* on March 16, 1972, when he was asked to take over a local weekly newspaper, *Marianas Star*.

Younis was born in Ara Village in Israel, where he studied and later graduated in graphic arts and fine arts.

Among his artworks in the CNMI is the Joeten Enterprises logo today, the Hafa Adai logo.

In an interview for a project by Howard Willens and Deanne C. Siemer on Feb. 11, 1997, Younis recalled that he left Israel in 1970 for a cultural scholarship between Japan and Israel for students who had a specific specialty in certain fields. While in Japan, a company agreed to send him to Guam because it's the closest destination where he can re-enter Japan in a different status as a working person and not as a student. Younis stayed in Guam for a couple of months until September 1971. As his U.S. visa was expiring, he was advised to better go to Saipan and change his immigration status and re-enter Guam.

On Saipan, Younis stayed in a small apartment unit in Chalan Kanoa for a supposed five-day visit. He, however, was able to make many friends on the island, met Maria Paz Castro, and got married. That's when he decided to open YSR Studio, which was doing graphic arts services.

After doing art work for the local weekly newspaper, *Marianas Star*, which was operated by two former Peace Corps volunteers, he was asked to take over the paper.

Younis subsequently agreed and changed its name to *Marianas Variety*, which was first published on March 16, 1972.

Younis worked also as a reporter, did the lettering by hand of the of the headlines, and other printing jobs. Younis said he used to personally hand-carry the paper to the Trust Territory printers to help them develop the plates and the film, bring it back,

and print all night.

"I was optimistic. It was a one-man operation for many years," Younis said during the interview.

He said they used to charge 5 cents and that the paper used to be "sort of loose sheets stapled [together]." Younis said Joeten Enterprises, which at that time was still a small store but pretty active, was their main advertiser, backer, and had ads every week.

In 1974, the newspaper's printing was moved from Chalan Kanoa to Oleai. It was then later transferred to its present location in Garapan.

The paper was published twice a week in 1983. Then it became a five-day paper later in the '80s.

Some *Marianas Variety* employees have been with the company for more than 25 years, so much so that employees call him "Pogi," which is a Tagalog term for handsome.

When Younis was still active as publisher, he would regularly treat employees to food and drinks during weekends at bars and at their barracks in Dandan. Current and former employees also remember how Younis loved dancing and his love for painting, with his own studio in Dandan where he displayed some of his works.

Precinct 2 Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that Younis devoted his life to making the Commonwealth a better place and is best known for his role as *Marianas Variety*'s publisher and his decades of service in keeping the community informed about news in the Marianas, the region, and around the world.

She said he was respected for his fearlessness in speaking truth to power—a legacy that the people hope will continue to live on in all the Commonwealth's citizens and journalists.

"My family and I offer our prayers and deepest sympathies to the Younises on the sad loss of their father and grandfather. He was deeply loved by his family and community, and will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace," Sablan said.

as I used to because we're all trying to avoid going out in order to steer clear of the virus for our safety and for the safety of others," he said.

The motorist, who only arrived on Saipan back in 2016, said that he is impressed to see the price of gas so low because he remembers gas being over \$4 when he first arrived on island.

"I think this is the lowest gas prices

I have been since I arrived on island," he said.

According to various media outlets, the decline in gas prices is not a good sign because it shows how depressed the economy has gotten as a result of COVID-19.

Additionally, even with prices dropping below \$1 in other parts of the United States, there is nowhere to go so many don't even need fuel.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

ticket by email or by phone and will accept full refund requests or flight changes with no cancellation fee.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We will continue to give top priority to the safety of our flights," Skymark said.

Skymark's last flights between Saipan and Japan were last March 25. The company's original plan was for the suspension to last only until May

10, 2020.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that Japan's coronavirus cases have spiked in the last few weeks, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has extended the state of emergency to the entirety of Japan. King-Hinds said Skymark's announcement of continued suspension was foreseeable given the circumstances.

"Our hearts and prayers go to the people of Japan during these challenging times. Skymark is a great friend of the CNMI and CPA thanks them for their continued commitment to our partnership," she said.

CHC

From Page 1

bers, friends, and associates.

The 57-year-old female was confirmed through the CHCC laboratory using the newly-acquired ID Now by Abbott/Alere testing platform. According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, CHCC took six minutes to get the results. CHCC has been working to develop its own testing capabilities. Muña said that through the Abbott ID Now, it can test more specimens based on priorities.

An Office of the Governor statement said that the ID NOW COVID-19 rapid test delivers high-quality molecular positive results in as little as five minutes. It credited the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for purchasing this testing device for CHCC.

In the latest positive case, CHCC tested three specimens for COVID-19: one tested positive and two tested negative.

As of April 18, the CNMI has a total of 14 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 51 negative, two deaths, and nine recoveries. Additionally, a total of 179 people who were quarantined at the Pacific Islands Clubs in San Antonio and Kanoa Resort have been released. Most of these people were passengers on the last flights to the CNMI before all flights were suspended and the CNMI's borders were closed.

More test kits for CNMI

Soon after the newest confirmed positive COVID-19 case in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres took to Facebook via a livestream video to announce that the CNMI has received 5,000 test kits in the morning of April 18.

Torres said the goal for this coming week for the test kits is first, to test all first responders, nurses, doctors, and their families.

"Our main goal is to do a mass testing on the island. That will take a little longer, but we want to assure our first responders, doctors, nurses,

and their families that we have the test kits that's needed in order to know where we are at," he said.

In addition to the test kits' arrivals, CHCC has also received the PerkinElmer Chemagic 360 machine, which can process about 96 samples in an hour. This is part of CHCC's efforts to prepare the CNMI's community-based testing strategy.

Torres said that the construction and renovation of Kanoa Resort to make it into a main alternate care site is moving forward. The plan is to use the Kanoa Resort as a care site should an outbreak happen in the CNMI.

Twelve days ago, construction work on a field hospital at CHCC's upper parking lot started. As of April 18, the construction is just about done on the electrical side, Torres said.

"The construction has done a tremendous work in what normally takes about a month," he said. "We are working extremely hard to make it ready just in case the community and our people need it. Again, I hope we don't need to use it but if we do, it's here," he added.

Torres draws attention to how important it is to keep up with good hygiene and social distancing. "I want to thank, CHCC CEO Esther Muña, the Task Force, and all of our first responders," he added. "Let's beat this coronavirus together."

COVID-19 in Guam

Guam press secretary Krystal Paco-San Agustin took to Facebook via a livestream video on April 17 to announce that one person in Guam tested positive for COVID-19.

As of 1pm on April 18, Guam now has a total of 136 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 110 recoveries, and five deaths, according to the Joint Information Center in Guam.

On April 17, the Guam Public Health laboratory tested 22 people. One tested positive for COVID-19 and 21 tested negative. The Guam Medical Hospital tested 10 individuals and all came back negative. As of 9pm on April 18, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested seven individuals for COVID-19, all coming back negative.

NAVY

From Page 1

crew members have been moved onto the island for quarantine.

Gilday's review won't be limited to Crozier. It will also look at the command climate on the ship and higher up within the Pacific-based fleet, to determine if there are broader leadership problems in a region critical to America's national security interests.

Gilday has many options as he reviews what was an extraordinarily

YOUNIS

From Page 1

day they are working on the details for a memorial service; they expect to finalize the details in the next day or so.

Younis was among the seven recipients of the Governor's Humanities Award in 2014 and was awarded for his lifetime achievement in the humanities as founder of the *Marianas Variety*, which has covered the developments and issues in the NMI in the last 42 years at that time.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios later released a statement, saying they join the Marianas in mourning the passing of Younis, whom they described as "an icon and innovator in the Pacific."

"We extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to the Younis family and all the past and present staff of the oldest newspaper in the NMI, *Marianas Variety*," Torres and Palacios said.

Torres and Palacios said that it was under Younis' leadership when *Marianas Variety* placed itself at the forefront of journalism and public information for the CNMI and Micronesia. They said Younis created the first platform in the Western Pacific for important news and information from around the Marianas and around the world for almost 50 years.

"He has employed hardworking and dedicated people over the years and continued to do so, increasing our local capacity and inspiring the next generation of journalists, communications directors, and public information officers," Torres and Palacios said.

In his later years, Younis opened up the popular Caravan of Food, a Mediterranean-style restaurant, so that he can share the flavors from his birthplace in Israel with the community he loved and called home.

"His passion and dedication to the people of the Marianas serve as an inspiration to all of us who looked up to him. We thank him for his ser-

NMI awarded over \$4M for COVID-19 response

The CNMI is set to receive \$4,042,585 in technical assistance, which was allocated from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act for all COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, and response efforts.

The CNMI was informed last week that additional Technical Assistance Pro-

gram funding pursuant to the CARES Act would be made available to states, territories, and Freely Associated States through the United States Office of Insular Affairs.

Earlier this week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote a letter requesting for the additional assistance for ongoing

first responder efforts to assist secretary of Insular and International Affairs Douglas W. Domenech. The governor received a response within just a few hours of his request.

In his response to Torres, Domenech wrote, "I am pleased to inform you that the Office of Insular Affairs is

awarding the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the requested \$4,042,585 from the CARES Act to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19. ...My thoughts and prayers are with you and the people of the CNMI during this difficult time."

The Office of the Governor later released a statement that Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Pa-

lacios are thankful to Domenech and the Office of Insular Affairs for all their assistance during these difficult times.

"Our main priority since the beginning of this pandemic has been to stop the spread of this virus on our islands. With the help of our federal partners, we have been able to establish multiple quarantine sites and set up a field hospital to assist

with prevention and response efforts to COVID-19. This additional funding will allow us to further our efforts to contain this virus and keep our people safe. Lt. Gov. Palacios and I would like to thank... Domenech, OIA, and all of our federal partners for their continued support in our community's fight against COVID-19," said Torres. **(PR)**

Bloc introduces bill to freeze rent and evictions

The House minority bloc introduced Thursday a bill that would give Gov. Ralph DLG Torres the authority to stop rent increases, as well as prohibit evictions and foreclosures.

Introduced to the floor by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), the legislation, House Bill 21-112, authorizes the freeze on rent increases, evictions, and foreclosures during a declared state of emergency or major disaster.

The minority bloc has been

appealing to the governor to prohibit any evictions of residential and commercial tenants, who are pressed for payments as the CNMI faces the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All of us have been hearing from very anxious constituents who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure in the middle of a public health crisis. We're in the middle of a pandemic. This is not the time for people to be losing their homes," Sablan said.

The draft legislation would

amend the Commonwealth Price Freeze Act and give Torres the authority to put a freeze on rent increases for both residential as well as commercial tenants, and also freeze evictions and foreclosures.

The day before, on Wednesday, the Office of the Governor issued a press release stating that a draft legislation is being proposed by Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to suspend evictions and foreclosures in the CNMI during the COVID-19 public health

emergency and CNMI state of significant emergency.

The draft legislation would prevent landlords and mortgagees from commencing eviction and foreclosure actions by prohibiting them from evicting or foreclosing on a tenant or mortgagor foreclosure based on nonpayment of rent or mortgage.

The draft bill states that "in the event the landlord or mortgagee has already ob-

tained a court order prior to the enactment of the law, the bill prevents any person from enforcing a writ of possession or judgment of foreclosure sale."

The draft legislation, however, was not introduced in Thursday's session. The House minority acknowledged the legislation that was drafted and said they are open to having both bills reconciled.

"We're interested in work-

ing with our colleagues to see how we can reconcile the two, perhaps we can incorporate elements of both bills into something that affords meaningful protections to people while also balancing the needs for landlords and property owners as well, who are relying on this income," Sablan said.

House Bill 21-112 has been tabled for discussion for the next House session. **(Iva Maurin)**

Two UOG student films win awards among 1,700 entrants

Two films written and directed by University of Guam communications students have won awards among 1,750 entries in the Festival of Media Arts by the Broadcast Education Association. The UOG students were among 368 awardees who were recognized and whose videos were available to view at the BEA2020 convention, which took place over the weekend.

The two original screenplays—*The Passenger*, directed by Stephanie Smith and co-written by Keano Fausto and Bradley Bartonico, and *Left on Read*, directed by Fausto and co-written by Kiana Brown and Brandon Cruz—were written for a film criticism course taught by Associate

Professor Raymond Anderson and then adapted to film for an independent filmmaking class taught by instructor Kel Muna.

"This is UOG's first time winning this student award, and to have two get recognized I think is outstanding," Anderson said.

The festival is an internationally judged exhibition of faculty and student work with entrants this year from more than 300 universities nationwide. The UOG student films both won Awards of Excellence as narrative works.

"It's surreal to be recognized for your team's work," said Fausto, who had a hand in both films. "When we were creating the film, we were not anticipating any recognition

or honors at all and simply wanted to tell a meaningful story that we would watch ourselves."

The Passenger is about a rideshare driver giving a ride to a distraught and mysterious passenger, and *Left on Read* follows 17-year-old Sirena Perez as she deals with "offline drama while trying to maintain her life online."

Left on Read has also been awarded locally, winning the "Best Made in the Marianas" award at the Guam International Film Festival in October and two awards at the University of Guam Film Festival last May.

The films are viewable at <https://bea2020.secure-platform.com/a>. **(PR)**

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter)
of the Adoption of:) **FCD-AD Civil Action**
Made Ann Bucher and) **No. 20-0117-FCD**
Maddie Jane Bucher,)
Minor Children,)
By:) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
Bryan David Bucher) **ON VERIFIED**
and Melodie Jane Bucher,) **PETITION FOR**
Petitioners.) **ADOPTION**

NOTICE is hereby given that a hearing on the Verified Petition for Adoption in the above-entitled matter is set for May 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the CNMI Supreme Court via video conference before Associate Judge Kim Tenorio at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Saipan. Interested parties should email the Clerk of Court at Patrick.Diaz@nmijudiciary.com for instructions for virtual attendance.

Dated this 17 day of April, 2020.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

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We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

High School diploma. No more than 24 months of work experience. Official apprenticeship preferred.

CLOSING DATE: April 21, 2020

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT MANAGER

Bachelor's Degree is required. Minimum three (3) years of hotel/resort experience and knowledge and managerial experience is expected. Able to work weekends, holiday, increment weather conditions and graveyard shifts.

CLOSING DATE: April 22, 2020

RESTAURANT MANAGER

High School/GED is required. At least 12 months' experience, must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holiday. Knowledgeable in banquet set up budgeting, compliance and policies. Able to stand long period of time, lift push over 30 pounds.

CLOSING DATE: April 22, 2020

(2) CLUBMATE

Must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates. Must be able to write, read, and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLOSING DATE: April 24, 2020

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Must possess technical knowledge and proficiency on 3512 Caterpillar Generators, 85 Kw Aqua Design Desalination Plants, Chiller Systems, Pumps, Filtration Systems for swimming pools And Reverse Osmosis Systems are required. Must be a Certified Reverse Osmosis (Ro) Technician in Water Treatment and distribution. Must have a thorough knowledge and experience in handling Diesel Plant and Reverse Osmosis Operations. Must be knowledgeable in Microsoft word and excel. Possess basic math skills. Previous experience in management of hotel maintenance/engineering is preferred. Must be able to work under a flexible work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends and holidays.

CLOSING DATE: April 24, 2020

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, April 24th, 2020.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NMC student named New Century Transfer Scholar

Jessa Lyn Lizama, a student at the Northern Marianas College, has been named a 2020 New Century Transfer Scholar and will receive a \$2,250 scholarship.

New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond

the classroom. Over 2,000 students were nominated from more than 1,200 college campuses across the country. Only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected from each state.

The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the

2,000 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Lizama is a sophomore liberal arts major at NMC. She currently is the president of the New Media Art



Lizama

Club at NMC.

"We congratulate Jessa for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, and the AACC to recognize her outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa's president and CEO Dr. Lynn Tinchler-Ladner. "Schol-

arship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for two-year college students to succeed and for putting college completion within reach."

The New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars were recognized at Phi Theta Kappa's Presidents Breakfast in National Harbor, Maryland, on March 30 during the AACC Convention.

"We are proud of Jessa and congratulate her on earning this national recognition,"

said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at ptk.org. (PR)

THINGS TO KNOW

As of April 18, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

PUA Fact Sheet

Fact sheet on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for the CNMI. For more information on the PUA program, review Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) No. 16-20 at https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=4628. See FACT SHEET at link on www.saipantribune.com.

USDA aid for rural residents, businesses, communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development has taken a number of actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. To learn more, go to https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_

SA_COVID19_CUMULATIVEUpdate04152020.pdf

Paycheck Protection Program FAQs

The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has issued frequently-asked-questions regarding implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program. Read the FAQs at <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/paycheck-protection-program-frequently-asked-questions>

DCRM UPDATES

The Division of Coastal Resources Management provides an update on several programs and plans. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture implements immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. Read about it at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>

[sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture expands provisions for lenders to offer temporary exceptions to payment deferrals for agency guaranteed loan programs. See full details at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferralPayments04082020.pdf.

WHO UPDATE

Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)

Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily

Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm;

Saturday closed

First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday - 8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm

USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm; Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

RESTAURANTS

For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

OTHER BUSINESSES:

For a list of their business operations status, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

MEDICAL SERVICES

For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

HOTELS

For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Demystifying-the-CARES-ACT-and-Local-Updates.html?oid=1129193858340&aid=0EXsNhZzzis>

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

Commonwealth Health Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/Chevy Alipio

GOVERNOR'S SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE

CNMI COVID-19 EMERGENCY DIRECTIVES AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will continue to take proactive steps to protect the health and safety of CNMI residents. Under the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives, the Governor's Social Distancing Guidance prevents potential public exposure and spread of COVID-19 within the CNMI. Because of the work we have done together, our curve remains flat. By following these guidelines, we can continue to keep our islands safe and protect our man'amko, our chronically sick, and our loved ones.



CURFEW MANDATE



No person, adult or minor, shall loiter or be present in, on or about any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, or vacant lots and places within the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING CURFEW MANDATE

- First-time offense violators found in public, including individuals found driving on a public road, outside of the curfew hours will be subject to a fine of \$200;
- Second-time offense violators found in public, including individuals found driving on public roads, outside of the curfew hours will be subject to a fine of \$500;
- Third-time or more offense violators found in public, including individuals found driving on public roads, outside of the curfew hours will be subject to a fine of \$750 and/or the impound of his/her vehicle by the Department of Public Safety;
- Each passenger in a vehicle found driving on a public road outside of the curfew hours will be subject to the following fines:
 - \$100 for a first-time offense;
 - \$200 for a second-time offense;
 - \$300 for a third-time or more offense.

EXCEPTIONS TO CURFEW MANDATE

This shall not apply to any person who is lawfully employed during the hours specified, or is in the direct route of going to or returning from their place of employment, any person going to or returning from admission to the hospital or completion of medical treatment such as hemodialysis, and law enforcement officers, DFEMS personnel, and other first responders while in the performance of their official duties.

@GovernorCNMI



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE



DOJ awards nearly \$49M to 6 states, one territory to address COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs has awarded nearly \$49 million to six states and one territory to address the public safety challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The grants are among the most recent to be awarded through the \$850 million available under the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding program, authorized by the recent stimulus legislation. This program allows eligible state, local and tribal governments to apply immediately for these critical funds. OJP is moving quickly, aiming to have funds available for drawdown as soon as possible after receiving an application. In addition to statewide awards, many local jurisdictions within these states are eligible for direct awards.

The grantees are: the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, \$3,536,720; Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, \$15,840,333; Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans, \$2,932,867; Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, \$5,754,321; Nebraska Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Commission, \$4,337,801; Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, \$5,465,514; and the Washington Department of Commerce, \$10,885,923. New Hampshire and Texas received statewide awards last week.

"The outbreak of COVID-19 and the public health emergency it created are so-

bering reminders that even the most routine duties performed by our nation's public safety officials carry potentially grave risks," said OJP principal deputy assistant attorney general Katharine T. Sullivan. "These funds will provide hard-hit communities with critical resources to help mitigate the impact of this crisis and give added protection to the brave professionals charged with keeping their citizens safe."

The law gives jurisdictions considerable latitude in the use of these funds for dealing with COVID-19. Potential uses include hiring personnel, paying overtime, purchasing protective equipment, distributing resources to hard-hit areas and addressing inmates' medical needs.

The solicitation, posted by OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance, will remain open for at least 60 days. As a top priority, OJP will fund successful applicants on a rolling basis as it receives applications. Grantees may apply the funds retroactively to January 20, 2020, subject to federal rules.

Agencies that were eligible for the fiscal year 2019 State and Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program are candidates for the emergency funding. A complete list of eligible jurisdictions and their allocations is available at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/fy20-cesf-allocations>.

For more information, visit <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-18553>. (PR)

Naval Hospital Guam opens outpatient clinic

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—U.S. Naval Hospital Guam will continue to provide outpatient services for urgent and required care through a consolidated outpatient Multi-Service Clinic.

Outpatient appointments in the Multi-Service Clinic are available daily from 9am to 2pm and includes a variety of providers from Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, and Specialty clinics.

To schedule an appoint-

ment, contact the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Central Appointment Line at (671) 344-9202 between 7:30am and 4pm. The daily hours of operations for Pharmacy are 9am - 3pm; Radiology, 9am - 3pm; and Laboratory for blood draws, 8am - 12pm.

If you have symptoms of influenza-like illnesses or COVID-19, call the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam 24 hours Emergency Operations Hotline at (671) 333-2772 or (671) 333-2775. (PR)

Social distancing guidance

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in consultation with his COVID-19 Task Force chaired by Warren Villagomez; special assistant of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Gerald J. Deleon Guerrero; and Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, has compiled the CNMI COVID-19 emergency directives that have been ongoing since the beginning of the CNMI's response in late January 2020.

Through this authority, Torres announces his new "social distancing guidance," a compilation of renewed emergency directives and additional enforcement authority pertaining to effective social distancing for the CNMI.

Social distancing has been globally recognized as the most important factor in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in countries, states, and territories around the world.

With NMI now able to test locally, Torres says it can also help Guam

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With 40,000 test kits that arrived last week from South Korea, on top of the 20,000 kits that arrived earlier, the CNMI is getting ready to conduct community testing for coronavirus and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that the CNMI stands ready to help Guam if it needs assistance with testing.

"We are a 100% ready for anybody...that needs to be tested," Torres said.

With the shipment from South Korea increasing the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s laboratory capacity to facilitate on-island testing, Torres said the mechanism for mass testing is now being readied.

Along with the test kits and the machine for using them, a clinical pathologist from South Korea also arrived on Saipan to carry out equipment regulation and test quality assurance and quality control of the test kits.

The governor also spoke of a new high peak in the CNMI that would fall in mid-May, "roughly May 20 that week," based on the latest trajectory by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The previous model placed the peak in mid-June.

"If we follow that model, that means we're not listening to social distancing, we're not following what is being advised. If we'll do our share, then we can plan that trajectory and have less casualty and fatality," Torres now says.

Torres reiterated his appeal

Camacho does well in national GeoBee

An 8th grade student at Saipan Community School made it yesterday to the state level of the Geography Bee, which was held via a national virtual ceremony with other top of state qualifiers.

The live virtual National Geographic GeoBee was held for all school champions nationwide and SCS was represented by school champion Paul Camacho.

"We are so proud of our very own Paul Camacho for making it to the state level and representing our school

with his hard work and dedication," the school said in a statement. "We recognize that

even though this has been an untraditional way forward, Paul kept studying and making the most of his opportunity. We are so proud of you." (PR)

Task Force and CHCC sees social distancing measures in the CNMI as among the main reasons why the CNMI's infection rate has remained low.

As of April 17, 2020, the CNMI has 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19, two deaths, and nine recoveries.

The governor, his task force, and CHCC will continue to take proactive steps to keep this curve flat and protect the health and safety of CNMI residents. Under the CNMI COVID-19 emergency directives, the governor's social distancing guidance prevents potential public exposure and spread of COVID-19 within the CNMI.

Because of the work that residents in the CNMI have done together, our curve remains flat, and we don't see sharp increases in confirmed cases, unlike other areas around the region and in the U.S. Businesses around the CNMI have also been very strong partners and are commended for their cooperation and commitment to protecting lives.

With community-based testing set to begin soon and with the enforcement of ongoing social distancing directives, the governor believes that protecting the Marianas now will save countless lives in the long-run, while ensuring that the CNMI economy returns to normalcy as quickly and safely as possible.

"By following these guidelines, we can continue to keep our islands safe and protect our *man'amko*, our chronically ill, and our loved ones. Let's stay vigilant, patient, and committed, Marianas. Together, we will overcome this pandemic," Torres said. (PR)

COVID-19 delays in extension, change of status filings

The Department of Homeland Security recognizes that there are immigration-related challenges as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to carefully analyze these issues and to leverage our resources to effectively address these challenges within our existing authorities. DHS also continues to take action to protect the American people and our communities, and is considering a number of policies and procedures to improve the employment opportunities of U.S. workers during this pandemic.

Generally, nonimmigrants must depart the United States before their authorized period of admission expires. However, we recognize that nonimmigrants may unexpectedly remain in the United States beyond their authorized period of stay due to COVID-19. Should this occur, the following options are available for nonimmigrants:

■ **Apply for an extension.** Most nonimmigrants can mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19 by timely filing an application for extension of stay or change in status. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services continues to accept and process applications and petitions, and many of our forms are available for online filing.

■ **If you file in a timely manner.** Nonimmigrants generally do not accrue

unlawful presence while the timely-filed, non-frivolous EOS/COS application is pending. Where applicable, employment authorization with the same employer, subject to the same terms and conditions of the prior approval, is automatically extended for up to 240 days after I-94 expiration when an extension of stay request is filed on time.

■ **Flexibility for late applications.** USCIS reminds petitioners and applicants that it can consider delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic when deciding whether to excuse delays in filing documents based on extraordinary circumstances.

Under current regulations and as noted on our Special Situations page, if a petitioner or applicant files an extension of stay or change of status request (on Forms I-129 or I-539) after the authorized

Man arrested for alleged terroristic threatening

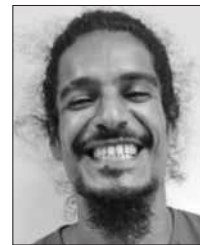
On Friday, April 17, 2020, at about 11:20am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety began receiving numerous complaints of an individual who posted a threat of violence toward another person via video through an online platform.

Authorities began investigating after becoming aware of the video made

period of admission expires, USCIS, in its discretion, may excuse the failure to file on time if it was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, such as those that may be caused by COVID-19. The length of delay must be commensurate with the circumstances. The petitioner or applicant must submit credible evidence to support their request, which USCIS will evaluate on a case-by-case basis. These special situations have been used at various times in the past, including for natural disasters and similar crises.

Please see 8 CFR 214.1(c)(4) and 8 CFR 248.1(c) for additional information on late requests to extend or change status. In addition, please see our Form I-129 and Form I-539 pages for specific filing and eligibility requirements for extensions of stay and changes of status.

online, and quickly identified Aziz P. Mettao as the suspect.



Mettao

Authorities immediately looked for Mettao to intercept him before he could make his way toward the individual's home. Authorities found Mettao in his vehicle at his home and proceeded to secure him. At approximately 11:33am,

■ **Flexibility for visa waiver entrants.** Visa Waiver Program entrants are not eligible to extend their stay or change status. However, under current regulations, if an emergency (such as COVID-19) prevents the departure of a VWP entrant, USCIS in its discretion may grant a period of satisfactory departure for up to 30 days. For those VWP entrants already granted satisfactory departure and unable to depart within this 30-day period because of COVID-19 related issues, USCIS has the authority to temporarily provide an additional 30-day period of satisfactory departure. To request satisfactory departure from USCIS, a VWP entrant should call the USCIS Contact Center.

For other policy updates, operational changes, and other COVID-19 information, visit uscis.gov/coronavirus. (PR)

Mettao was arrested for alleged terroristic threatening in violation of the Commonwealth code. He was brought to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

If you know someone who is making threats online or towards an individual, call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

GOVERNOR'S SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE

CNMI COVID-19 EMERGENCY DIRECTIVES
AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will continue to take proactive steps to protect the health and safety of CNMI residents. Under the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives, the Governor's Social Distancing Guidance prevents potential public exposure and spread of COVID-19 within the CNMI. Because of the work we have done together, our curve remains flat. By following these guidelines, we can continue to keep our islands safe and protect our *man'amko*, our chronically ill, and our loved ones.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MANDATE



Residents are advised to maintain a distance of at least six feet apart in all public areas, such as public beaches, pathways, and businesses. Exercise, wellness (including swimming), and subsistence fishing at public beaches and activity on pathways are only allowed from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm daily and are subject to this social distancing mandate.

Gatherings of more than 10 people in a single room or single space are prohibited at the same time for social, spiritual and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, public leisure, faith-based, or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, fiestas, conventions, fundraisers and similar activities are prohibited throughout the CNMI.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING SOCIAL DISTANCING MANDATE

- First-time offense violators will be subject to a fine of \$100;
- Second-time offense violators will be subject to a fine of \$250 and/or up to three days imprisonment;
- Third-time or more offense violators will be subject to a fine of \$500 and/or up to six months imprisonment.

EXCEPTIONS TO SOCIAL DISTANCING MANDATE

This shall not apply to law enforcement officers, DFEMS personnel, and other first responders while in the performance of their official duties.

@GovernorCNMI



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE



Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Postal Service is America's lifeline. Save it

As business skyrockets for Amazon and other online shipping and delivery services during the pandemic, it's tempting to ask whether it's time to pull the plug on the U.S. Postal Service, with its every-door every-day delivery schedule, its bricks-and-mortar neighborhood service centers, its unwieldy pension burden and the enmity of President Donald Trump and much of the GOP establishment. It's widely projected to become insolvent this year, with drop-dead estimates ranging from June to September, and in any case before October—when vote-by-mail ballots are due to go out in much (and perhaps all) of the nation.

Trump's dislike of the Postal Service is so intense that he reportedly threatened to veto the recent \$2-trillion economic relief package if it included any postal bailout. Private airlines and other giant corporations, yes; the national lifeline that reaches virtually every American in good times and bad, no way.

Yes, the agency is premodern—in a good way. When the electricity goes out, the cell tower is down or the internet isn't working (all of which could easily happen during a natural disaster or enemy attack), the Postal Service and its employees are the nation's vital link, as befits a publicly held resource. One emergency plan not (yet) in use is to have postal workers quickly deliver to each American an antidote like Cipro in the event of a wide-scale biological attack. Who else would be able to do that? As a recent *Wired* article notes, the plan could quickly and easily be retooled for a pandemic.

The agency plays an essential role in urban and suburban areas, where postal workers are the ones who bring many of those Amazon packages to the front door. And in rural and hard-to-reach areas, postal workers are the only ones who provide regular delivery service because there's not enough money in it for private courier businesses. Postal delivery is the only way many Americans can get their essential medications or pension checks—and yes, ballots, much to the chagrin of Trump, who accurately recognizes that broadening the voter base diminishes the election chances of Republicans like himself.

The agency is a little like face masks, ventilators and test kits—national goods too easy to forget about when there is no emergency, and to economize into oblivion just before you need them.

Congress has hamstrung the agency with an unsound plan to fund future retiree pensions. It also has prevented it from employing modern technologies or adding services that might compete with private companies. It should unleash the agency.

In the short term, though, Congress should do exactly what should be done for the nation's most essential services in times of emergency. It should properly fund the Postal Service to keep it serving us in normal times and to keep it ready for times like now.

(c) 2020 Los Angeles Times



Put Americans back to work fighting the coronavirus

Roughly 22 million Americans have lost their jobs since mid-March, when the coronavirus started spreading around the country. Many won't be able to return to work until the outbreak is contained. Meanwhile, there's a proven strategy for containing infectious diseases, which is notoriously difficult to carry out because it's so labor-intensive.

Why don't we solve both problems at once?

With "contact tracing," a mainstay of infectious disease control, health workers identify people who have been infected, contact them, learn who they may have exposed, and reach out to those people to limit the spread. Right now, the coronavirus is too widespread and testing too limited for such a targeted approach to work. But once case numbers become more manageable, the U.S. will move away from what epidemiologists call the "population-based" approach, which requires everybody to self-isolate, and toward one focused on containing individual cases. This will be the only way most of us can get back to normal life without risking devastating new outbreaks.

It's a strategy that's been shown to work against COVID-19 in New Zealand and Iceland. In the U.S., health officials use it to contain mumps and other diseases. But in the current crisis, the U.S. doesn't have enough public health workers to do the job. Contact tracing helped snuff out Liberia's Ebola outbreak in 2014, but it took 4,000 workers to protect the country's 5 million citizens. Wuhan, a city of 11 million, reportedly needed 9,000 contact tracers to suppress COVID-19. Estimates vary, but the U.S. will need 100,000 to 300,000 contact tracers to contain the coronavirus. That's a lot of manpower.

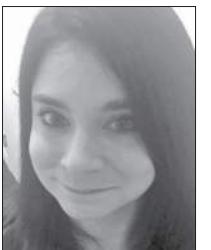
Digital tools, such as apps used in Singapore and South Korea to automatically alert people who have been exposed to the coronavirus, can augment human labor—but they can't replace it. This is especially true in the U.S., where stronger privacy protections and weaker quarantine authority limit technology's reach. The high-profile contact-tracing program under development by Apple and Google will operate on an opt-in basis—which could limit its use substantially. As Dr. Farzad Mostashari put it on Twitter, "How do you get virtually everyone to put an always-on app on their phones that tracks their contacts, eats battery, and doesn't do anything to delight them?"

So state and local health departments should start thinking about how they can scale up their work forces. A pilot program in Massachusetts could serve as a model for others. The state is working with Partners in Health—the Boston-based nonprofit best known for its work in Haiti—to some hire some 1,000 contact tracers. Since training will be provided, these entry-level jobs are open to anyone with a high school education. The workers will track the ill and exposed using a web-based contact-management system, and ultimately connect them with testing and other services needed for quarantine, such as food delivery and even housing.

By TRACY WALSH

Bloomberg Opinion

Tracy Walsh is an editor for Bloomberg Opinion. She was an editor at the *Dish* and Euromoney Institutional Investor. For more articles like this, please visit us at [bloomberg.com/opinion](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion)



In return, entry-level contact tracers will earn \$27 per hour. That's considerably more than the state minimum wage, but given the importance of fighting the virus—and relieving workers' distress during this stunning economic crisis—it will be money well spent. Epidemiologist Gregg Gonslaves recently called for "a WPA for public health," referring to the Depression-era program that employed millions to build roads, parks and other projects that endure to this day. Eradicating the coronavirus would require fewer workers, but the employment situation is, for now, no less dire. And importantly, containing the virus would allow the U.S. economy to return to normal as scientists work on a vaccine.

Many temporary contact tracers could return to their jobs once the crisis abates. For others, contact tracing could be a stepping stone to a career in public health, where workers are desperately needed, because more than 50,000 public health jobs evaporated during the Great Recession. By one estimate U.S. is short a quarter-million such workers—who will need to be hired if we want to avoid future pandemics.

Expanding contact tracing is one of many ways to shore up the public health workforce. Lawmakers from both parties have called for a Public Health Infrastructure Fund, which would raise \$13 per person to ensure that the public health system can meet its "foundational capacities." That would amount to \$4.5 billion, a tiny fraction of the money allocated for coronavirus relief so far. Partnerships with universities, nonprofits and businesses—such as Massachusetts's with Partners in Health—might offer another way for cash-strapped public-health agencies to scale up.

Until there's a vaccine for COVID-19—with luck, sometime next year—coronavirus is going to be a problem. We have, broadly speaking, three choices. We could maintain shelter-in-place orders indefinitely, devastating the economy. We could end it for everyone, leading to more outbreaks and needless deaths. Or we could be strategic—identifying the sick and at-risk through testing and tracing, suppressing outbreaks, building up our public health capacity and keeping laid-off workers employed until the economy has recovered enough to reabsorb them. The choice is easy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Health agency should stick to health

The World Health Organization is a Chinese toady. When the coronavirus broke out in China, and after the nation had some time to assess the facts, it did not share them and lied to the U.N. agency. The truth would not serve China's purposes, and even after the agency itself had been treated to facts by other sources, it spread the lies globally. People died as a consequence.

This is not some minor deal, and the fact is that the 72-year-old WHO does kowtow to China. It's not that China gives it a lot of money. The total it provided in a 2018-2019 budget cycle was \$76 million. The United States, at the head of the pack, was assessed \$237 million and voluntarily chipped in \$656 million, according to National Public Radio. No, it's a case of ideological handholding with the WHO director, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and maybe he also fears repercussions if he crosses certain walls.

It does not follow that WHO and the United States are sitting around twiddling their socially distant thumbs. Years ago, WHO helped consign smallpox to history books, and today it's a fierce enemy of malaria along with other diseases. Right now, it is focused on the coronavirus fight. In answer to criticism of its recent mix-ups, Tedros has denied fault and outlined achievements of the moment. A big-time critic, President Donald Trump, reviewed the

agency's crumbling reliability and said we were going to suspend funding. He then said that the money would go to other health organizations that were trustworthy, such as the Red Cross.

At this particular moment, he ought to leave the money alone, demand reform and then say, if it is not forthcoming, neither will more money be forthcoming. We don't need more havoc on top of havoc, and WHO is at last doing some good. The New York Times and other dear media friends known for leftist bias say what Trump is really doing is trying to shift the blame he so ardently earned through his own initial virus laxity. Whatever, the big issue in all of this is that we have an international health organization that has been muffing an incredibly important job and helped deliver a pandemic.

At the end of December, China belatedly notified WHO about what it identified as a middling sickness. Taiwan, treated by WHO as an outcast not to be listened to, offered up researched data showing instead that here was an extremely dangerous virus that was transmitted by one human to another. An outstanding Chinese scientist had made a similar case and world experts were nodding their heads.

China said it was all hokum and WHO agreed. Go ahead with trade and travel to and from China, WHO said, and so there was

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

trade and travel to be followed by infection and death all over the world. People noticed as much, and China finally conceded what was really happening. WHO said oh, OK, science has unwrapped new information that we will share for the sake of humanity, a rediscovery of purpose.

Trump had wanted to call COVID-19 the China Virus, but he was therefore called a racist even as the tolerant Chinese said the American military plotted the whole thing. Here's a country that steals our intellectual property, cheats on trade and has missed few opportunities as the bad guy wanting supreme world power. We need to stay wary and get WHO on the path to putting world health over Chinese allegiance.

First it was toilet paper. Now...baby chickens?

I wasn't surprised when the grocery store shelves, for a time, were bereft of toilet paper, flour and canned tomatoes. It's a pandemic, after all, and despite our better angels, the instinct to squirrel away food and supplies is difficult to overcome.

But when I tried to place an order for chick feed at the local Tractor Supply and found it was completely sold out of every brand, I discovered another coronavirus-inspired phenomenon: panic-buying chicks.

"America Stress-Bought All the Baby Chickens," declared the New York Times late last month, in a headline more reminiscent of The Onion than the nation's most prominent newspaper.

But it's true. Hatcheries all over the country have been selling out of freshly born poultry.

Because apparently, in times of economic and political tumult, people buy chickens.

In some ways, there's something quaint and pastoral about America's sudden chick obsession.

Mandatory quarantines have unexpectedly slowed the pace of life, and many people now find themselves at home with time and opportunity to participate more directly in domestic food production. Or have you not noticed that everyone is baking bread and planting vegetable gardens?

Many parents, too, have found themselves unexpectedly charged with home-schooling young children, and raising chicks is phenomenal for teaching kids about where and how food is produced. The added bonus, of course, is that cuddling baby

chicks will keep stir-crazy kids occupied for hours on end.

More practically, though, chickens can provide long-term food security in otherwise uncertain times.

Eggs prices have spiked throughout the country, and some grocery stores have limited the amount shoppers can purchase.

While there's a good chance the market will adapt, there's a comfort in having some control over the source of your food.

That assumes, of course, if you're a newfound chick owner, that you know how to keep them alive and healthy long enough to start providing you with eggs.

I'm no expert at chicken rearing. We're on our second round of baby chicks; we have four laying hens that we raised from chicks last year and four babies in a brooder in our living room. But here's a little advice from my backyard experience.

First and foremost, make sure you know your local ordinances or homeowners association rules. Some cities have prohibitions on owning roosters or limits on the number of chickens you can keep. It's probably best to let your neighbors know your chicken plans, as well, since certain breeds can be loud.

Next, be prepared for the mess.

Like any other baby animal, chicks are an adorable novelty until they're not.

With chicks, that reality sets in as soon as you realize how much they poop and how much they smell. (And how often you have to clean their bottoms so they don't develop a potentially

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

fatal condition called "pasty butt".)

Chicks also grow surprisingly fast. So be prepared to transition them from a heated brooder to a more permanent and predator-proof outside structure and run by about eight weeks.

You also have to manage your expectations about egg production. If you buy chicks now, you won't see your first eggs until the end of summer, at the earliest. And once they're laying, some chickens produce an egg every 24-30 hours or so; other breeds lay only two or three eggs a week. So be wise in selecting breeds.

Lastly, know your own limits. A small flock of chickens isn't a lot of work or expense if you know how to keep them healthy and safe, but it may turn out that chick-hoarding really isn't your thing.

That's OK, as long as you have a plan for the future of your flock.

Maybe you can find a chick-hoarding neighbor who will trade you eggs for some freshly baked bread.

In blaming China, WHO isn't scapegoating

President Donald Trump slammed the World Health Organization at a recent news briefing and was immediately accused of scapegoating.

There's no doubt that Trump is inclined to shift blame when possible (and even when it isn't). He'll never take ownership of the testing debacle at the outset of our coronavirus response or admit it was wrong initially to minimize the virus.

Yet none of this detracts from the force of his critiques of China (although he blows hot and cold on that) and the WHO, which are at the center of this international catastrophe and must be held to account.

Without China's deceit and WHO's solicitude for Beijing, the outbreak might have been more limited, and the world at the very least would have had more time to react. China committed unforgivable sins of commission, affirmatively lying about the outbreak and punishing doctors and disappearing journalists who told the truth, whereas the WHO committed sins of omission—it lacked independence and courage at a moment of great consequence.

In effect, China and the WHO worked together to expose the rest of the world to the virus, at the same time they downplayed its dangers.

China acted as you'd expect. Countries that run gulags aren't typically noted for their good governance and transparency. The

WHO is supposed to be different. According to its constitution, "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States."

But it's hard to see how the WHO would have acted any differently if its constitution contained a proviso stipulating that it should validate Chinese propaganda as much as possible, especially in the midst of a world-threatening outbreak of a novel virus.

On Jan. 14, WHO tweeted that "preliminary investigations" by Chinese authorities had found no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Several days later, it reported "limited" human-to-human transmission, although it downplayed the finding as typical of respiratory illnesses.

Then, the WHO declined to call the outbreak in China a public health emergency of international concern on Jan. 22, at the same time there were confirmed cases in Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Thailand and South Korea. After the WHO finally declared the emergency, it proceeded to drag its feet on declaring a pandemic, waiting until March 12.

One of the worst things China did was seal off Hubei province from the rest of the country while flights continued around the world. Was the WHO concerned about that? No, it was fully on board. As a headline in Reuters put it in early February, "WHO

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

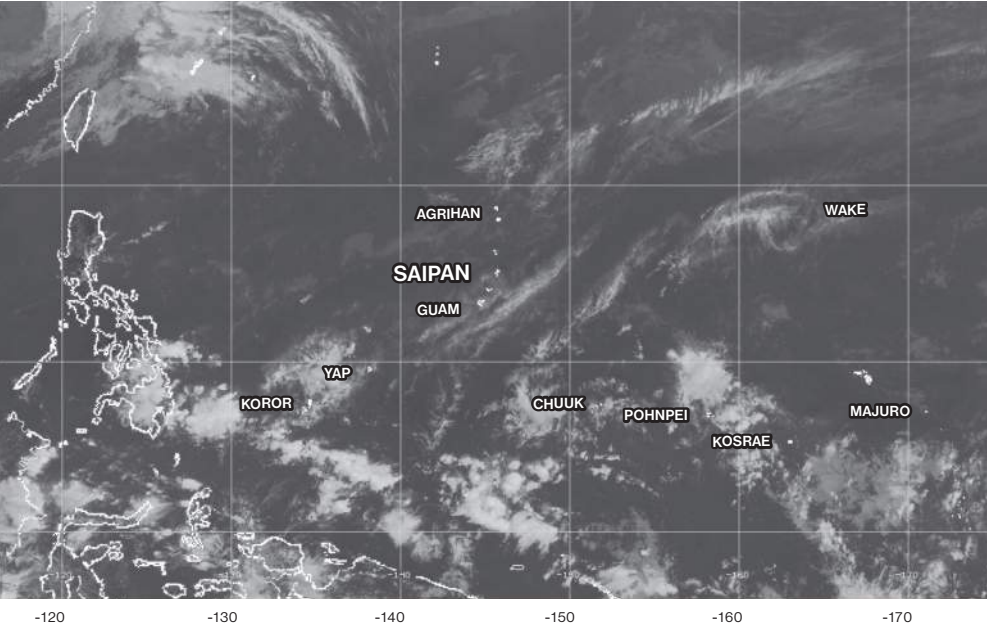
chief says widespread travel bans not needed to beat China virus."

Incredibly enough, in late January, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was praising Chinese officials for "the transparency they have demonstrated." Despite the emerging consensus that China has lied about its number of cases and deaths, WHO hasn't yet said a discouraging word about China's actions. It's been resolute, though, in excluding Taiwan from its workings, just as Beijing dictates.

Trump takes more than his share of potshots, but that doesn't mean he's always off the mark. China and the WHO are genuine malefactors who deserve all the obloquy the president, and anyone else, can heap on them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	77°	88°	76°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:35 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers and gentle to moderate east winds prevail over the local area this morning. A typical dry-season weather pattern is expected through the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



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Department of Finance

- Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000
- Division of Customs Services**
 - Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Seaport:** Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands

- CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



Saipan Zoning Office

- Available via phone only
Monday - Thursday
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
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CNMI State Medicaid Agency

- Eligibility staff via phone only
Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



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Office of the Public Defender

- Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:16 AM	4:23 PM	-
Tuesday	4:52 AM	5:09 PM	-
Wednesday	5:27 AM	5:55 PM	-
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	-
Friday	6:39 AM	7:30 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	61° / 37°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 70°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
New York	Showers	58° / 44°	
Osaka	Rain	66° / 55°	
Paris	Showers	70° / 54°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°	
Rome	Showers	75° / 57°	
Salem	Showers	77° / 49°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	57° / 39°	
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45	
6:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	
12:52 PM	LOW TIDE	0.68	
6:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.66	

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 16, 2020



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihipo@gmail.com



Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
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Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
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Application Inquiries:
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To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

Business

Immediately after news broke out that hundreds of public school teachers are being furloughed last week, The Shack Saipan heated their stoves, took out pans and pots, and opened their doors and extended food credit to them for the next three months.

"We've always had a steady stream of educational professionals at The Shack and they are part of our family... we initially heard of the 30% shortfall from teachers' salaries two pay periods ago and were saddened. When we found out that the unexpectedly did not get paid at all this last pay period we felt we wanted to do something to help out," owner Glen Hunter said.

"The entire team of The Shack decided that we would extend a 90-day credit terms on all purchases for any [Public School System] employees who happened to be furloughed. We realize there are so many people right now locally and abroad who are negatively impacted by the Covid-19. We realized we couldn't help everyone, but we felt we were in a position to offer a little reprieve to educators who might be having a tough time with meals. We also extended this credit plan to all PSS personnel (teacher aides, counselors, support staff, and others) that were subject to furlough not just teachers," Hunter added.

The Shack is akin to a highland bistro and a popular restaurant on Saipan that specializes in French-style crepes and local cuisine. They give emphasis on healthier items but provide home-style meals as well.

With this food credit, The Shack hopes that it also offers



The Shack offers credit to furloughed teachers

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

comfort, friendship, love, and hope.

"I've always held I regard for anyone who makes it a passion in their life to educate others. I think the passing on of wisdom and skills is something that should always be promoted and supported," Hunter said.

"I want PSS staff who are

dealing with so much right now to have the ability to take one thing off of their mind temporarily and that is the ability for them to get food today without worrying about the financial aspect of that. We want them to understand that the community is in full support of them and hopes only

the best for them and the rest of the world," Hunter added.

Hunter is hopeful that other restaurants that are still operating would be able to give some kind of assistance not only to teachers, but also to other individuals impacted by job loss or income drop.

"It is also our major hope

that both the local and federal governments work diligently to provide assistance to individuals in our community. There are multiple programs that we are all still awaiting," he said.

"This Commonwealth was one of the first and the most severely impacted by this virus. We are now going on

BEA CABRERA

From left, The Shack Saipan owner Glen Hunter and staff Izza Camacho, Nina Kaipat, M.J. Sikelbert, Sid Romlor, and Henry Worswick. "At The Shack Saipan, we give high regard to our teachers," Hunter said.

more than three months since negative impacts reached our shores yet to date individuals in our community have received zero direct assistance from our local and federal governments," Hunter added.

Hunter admits that many small businesses are struggling daily to stay afloat. "But we are a resilient community and have been through so much. We need to go back to our native mindset—one of a community made up of individuals that help one another. No one person can solve all the issues and if we all do a little bit we can do so much," he said.

"We saw this time and time again after numerous disasters here in our Commonwealth. I would hope that our government leaders put aside all their internal squabbling and start focusing on solution-finding and come up with ways to ensure that not only the teachers get what they deserve but every individual living in the Commonwealth. We need to turn away from self-enrichment and a top-heavy system and start moving toward a government that provides a more level playing field for its citizens," he added.

The Shack Saipan is open from Monday to Friday, 8am-2pm, and Saturday from 8am to 12noon. For more information, call (670) 286-7222 delivery is available through the Eats Easy app.

ROME (AP)—Passengers on a luxury liner's around-the-world cruise, begun before the globe was gripped by the coronavirus pandemic, are finally approaching the end of their odyssey after 15 weeks at sea.

Their ship, the Costa Deliziosa, heads to ports in Spain and Italy, two of the countries most devastated by the coronavirus outbreak.

Costa Crociere, an Italian cruise company, said Saturday that the Deliziosa, which set sail from Venice in early January with 1,831 passengers, has reached the western Mediterranean, with no cases of COVID-19 aboard.

The Deliziosa, a nearly 300-meter (1,000-foot) vessel, will disembark 168 Spanish passengers early next week at the port of Barcelona, Spain, the company said. Then the Deliziosa will head to its final destination, Genoa, Italy, where it is expected to disembark the remaining passengers, Italians and those of other na-

World cruise, begun before pandemic, nears end of odyssey

tionalities, on Wednesday.

A company spokesman said a passenger left the ship earlier in the week in Marsala, Sicily, for health issues and had a COVID-19 test, which was negative.

Being on the liner for weeks during the pandemic "was not surreal, it was incredible," said passenger Carlos Paya, who lives in Valencia, Spain, and is sailing with his wife. He added that they have family members in Spain.

"The news that was arriving from home was causing us all a lot of worry and grief," he told The Associated Press by text message Saturday evening. "For us it was a stroke of good luck to be where we were."

"From Perth (Australia) given the growth of the pandemic, and of course for those of us who have children in Spain, we would have preferred to return," he added. "Other passengers, on the other hand,

given their old age, wanted to stay on board knowing that the boat was safe and secure."

French authorities had rebuffed a request by Costa for permission to disembark several hundred passengers from France and nearby countries at Marseilles. "The health situation on board the ships, with 1,814 guests and 898 members of the crew, doesn't present any problem for public health and no case of COVID-19," Costa's statement said.

While people infected with the coronavirus often experience mild or moderate symptoms, possible complications like pneumonia can put their lives at risk.

The Deliziosa was originally due to return to Venice on April 26. After the U.N. World Health Organization pandemic alert in March, the ship, which had just made a port call in Fremantle, western

Australia, made only technical and refueling stops, before the journey back toward the Mediterranean, which took it through the Suez Canal, according to the company.

Passenger Jean-Pierre Escarras, from Marseilles, shot a video of their cabin that their daughters shared on social networks, in which he says: "This is our place of confinement. We are lucky to have a window."

The couple said that after a stop in Sydney, the ship's activities were "reduced or sometimes canceled. We haven't been able to get out on land since March 14 — that's 34 days."

The passengers said that ports in Oman, along the Suez Canal, as well as in the Seychelles and Indian Ocean ports, refused to let the ship dock.

The Spanish passenger, Paya, praised the captain and crew.

Costa said the passengers

were confined to their cabins only for the period until the ship heard back that the ill guest who got off in Sicily had tested negative. It didn't say how long that period lasted.

The company said, because the ship is Italian-flagged, it followed Italian precautionary measures used in the pandemic, including safety distancing between guests such as managing the numbers of who could enter food areas at any one time, and transmitting entertainment to cabin TV sets.

A French woman whose in-laws are aboard the Costa Deliziosa garnered about 100 signatures on an online petition to urge the French government to intervene to get them home.

But French authorities barred the Deliziosa from disembarking more than 1,000 passengers before its final destination in Italy.

The regional administra-

tion for Bouches-du-Rhone in southern France cited a nationwide ban on allowing foreign cruise ships to dock, as part of France's virus-related confinement measures. Italy has also barred foreign cruise ships as it battles the virus outbreak.

The French administration has granted exemptions to six other cruise ships in recent weeks to allow French passengers to get off, but refused this time, saying the previous stops overstretched local police and health authorities already mobilized to fight France's severe virus crisis.

Last month, two other Costa cruise ships pulled into Italian ports, including one that earlier had aboard passengers who tested positive for COVID-19 before being disembarked in France.

It was unclear if or where the passengers who were due to finally step aboard land after weeks of sailing aboard the Deliziosa would be quarantined as a precaution.

Nation

US governors feel heat to reopen from protesters, president

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Stores in Texas can soon begin selling merchandise with curbside service, and hospitals can resume nonessential surgeries. In Florida, people are returning to a few beaches and parks. And protesters are clamoring for more.

Governors eager to rescue their economies and feeling heat from President Donald Trump are moving to ease restrictions meant to control the spread of the coronavirus, even as new hot spots emerge and experts warn that moving too fast could prove disastrous.

Adding to the pressure are protests against stay-at-home orders organized by small-government groups and Trump supporters. They staged demonstrations Saturday in several cities after the president urged them to “liberate” three states led by Democratic governors.

Protests happened in Republican-led states, too, including at the Texas Capitol and in front of the Indiana governor’s home. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott already said that restrictions will begin easing next week. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb—who signed an agreement with six other Midwestern states to coordinate reopening—said he would extend his stay-at-home order until May 1.

For the first time in weeks, people were able to visit some Florida beaches, but they were still subject to restrictions on hours and activities. Beaches in big cities stayed closed.

Meanwhile, infections kept surging in the Northeast.

Rhode Island, between the hot spots of Massachusetts



Protesters rally at the Texas State Capitol to speak out against Texas’ handling of the COVID-19 outbreak, in Austin, Texas, Saturday, April 18, 2020.

and New York, has seen a steady daily increase in infections and deaths, with nursing home residents accounting for more than 90 of the state’s 118 deaths. The state’s death rate of around 10 people per 100,000 is among the nation’s highest per capita, according to data compiled by the COVID Tracking Project.

Massachusetts had its highest number of deaths in a single day on Friday, with 159. Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, citing health experts’ advice, said states should wait until infection rates and hos-

pitalizations decline for about two weeks before acting.

Trump, whose administration waited months to bolster stockpiles of key medical supplies and equipment, appeared to back protesters.

“LIBERATE MINNESOTA!” “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!” “LIBERATE VIRGINIA,” Trump said in a tweet-storm in which he also lashed out at New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, for criticizing the federal response. Cuomo “should spend more time ‘doing’ and less time ‘complaining,’” the president said.

ident said.

At his Saturday briefing with reporters, Cuomo cited more progress. The state’s daily increase in deaths fell below 550 for the first time in more than two weeks as hospitalizations continued to decline.

But the crisis is far from over: Hospitals are still reporting nearly 2,000 new COVID-19 patients per day, and nursing homes remain a “feeding frenzy for this virus,” he said.

“We are not at a point when we are going to be reopening anything immediately,” Cuomo said.

Several hundred people ral-

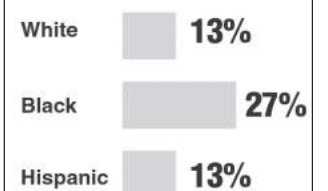
lied in Texas’ capital, chanting “Let us work!” Many clamored for an immediate lifting of restrictions in a state where more than 1 million have filed for unemployment since the

COVID-19 experiences

Do you personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19?



YES by race



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

crisis began.

The rally was organized by a host of Infowars, owned by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, who joined protesters on the Capitol steps. Jones is being sued in Austin over using his show to promote falsehoods that the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre in Connecticut was a hoax.

Pandemic provokes spike in demand for food pantries in US

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—Brooklyn Dotson needed food. Her first unemployment check had yet to arrive after she was let go by the warehouse where she used to work.

So the 25-year-old Nashville woman scrounged up some gas money and drove 30 miles (48 kilometers) to the GraceWorks Ministries food pantry in Franklin. There, at the pantry’s new drive-thru, workers wearing masks and gloves loaded her van with about \$350 worth of groceries.

“I don’t have any income coming in, I don’t get any food stamps, so it’s just hard to get any help right now,” Dotson said while waiting in line at GraceWorks.

Food pantries stay busy even in the best of economic times; the coronavirus pandemic has prompted a spike in demand as millions of people

like Dotson find themselves furloughed, laid off or with businesses that have suffered huge financial blows.

“About 50% of the people coming through our lines have never been here before,” said GraceWorks President and CEO Valencia A. Breckenridge.

Just as demand is skyrocketing, however, many of the food banks’ sources are drying up. Restaurants, hotels and resorts — many of which are shuttered or sharply limiting their operations — are no longer supplying them with food, while other suppliers are busy restocking grocery shelves. Farmers have switched from shipping vegetables and meats in bulk to individual packaging for grocery stores.

“It is a perfect storm scenario,” said Katie Fitzgerald, chief operating officer for

Feeding America, a nationwide association of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries.

Feeding America has seen an increase in demand from 98% of its member banks, according to a recent survey. The average increase for a member was 63%, while 95% of the association’s food banks reported an increase in operating expenses, the organization said.

Congress included a significant boost for emergency food assistance in its coronavirus relief legislation, but Fitzgerald warned that funding may take months to reach localities while food banks contend with a flood of need in the near term. The \$100 million that billionaire Jeff Bezos pledged to the association on April 2 was already being deployed last week, she said.

“When people say what do

you need the most, we need food and money,” said Nancy Keil, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.

In addition to finding ways to meet the spike in demand, food banks have had to devise creative new ways to distribute ever greater amounts of food while keeping both recipients and their staff safe from exposure to the coronavirus.

The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank in California has built “pop-up” pantries after some of its previous 275 or so sites had to stop operating during the pandemic, spokeswoman Keely Hopkins said. The new sites, many of which are serving hundreds of people per day, stay open for longer hours and use open spaces such as parking lots to facilitate social distancing, she added.

With no school, calls drop but child abuse hasn't amid virus

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—With schools closed and teachers unable to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect, child welfare agencies have lost some of their best eyes and ears during a stressful time for families who have lost jobs and are locked down together during the coronavirus pandemic.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and across the country, states are reporting fewer calls to child abuse hotlines, not because officials believe there are fewer cases but because they’re going unreported.

“When there are large-scale job losses in communities, child maltreatment rates go up,” said Anna Gassman-Pines, a Duke University public policy professor whose expertise includes the effect of unemployment on children. “So we all need to be thinking about, during this time of stay-at-home orders and widespread economic strain, that those are the conditions under which families with preexisting vulnerabilities might be under—a lot of increased strain

and stress.”

Calls to Washington state’s child abuse hotline are down about 50%, while Montana, Oklahoma and Louisiana are reporting about a 45% reduction since schools closed last month to slow the spread of the virus. Arizona’s calls are down a third compared with previous weeks, and Nevada has seen a 14% drop compared with March 2019.

“That means many children are suffering in silence,” said Darren Daronco, spokesman for the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Agencies are now asking others to fill in the reporting gaps that have emerged with school closures.

“Everyone, whether you’re a store clerk, a mailman, a neighbor or a relative, everyone has the responsibility of reporting child abuse,” said New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, whose state has seen calls drop by half in recent weeks. “While calls have gone down, that doesn’t mean abuse has stopped.”

Asia

Govts face more pressure to curb virus economic damage

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea reported fewer than 10 new coronavirus cases Sunday for the first time in two months as U.S. governors ease lockdowns amid pressure worldwide from businesses and the public to limit the pandemic's economic damage.

In Brazil, hundreds of people protested in major cities against anti-virus lockdowns. France reported a decline in numbers of intensive care patients but its health agency warned the public to stick to strict isolation measures.

The pandemic that began in central China in December is believed to have infected more than 2.3 million people worldwide. While most recover, at least 155,000 have died, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University based on figures supplied by health authorities around the globe.

South Korea reported eight new cases, raising its total to 10,661 with 234 deaths.

South Korea's toll of new cases has fallen from a peak of 909 on Feb. 29. But officials warn of the possibility of a "quiet spread" as people relax social distancing.

"We must not loosen our guard until the last confirmed patient is recovered," Presi-

dent Moon Jae-in said Sunday.

China reported 16 new cases and no deaths in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday. That raised the official fatality toll to 4,632—some three-quarters of them in the central city of Wuhan, where the virus emerged—among 82,735 confirmed cases.

Governments face pressure to reopen factories, shops, travel and public activities even as numbers of infections rise in the United States and some other countries.

Shutdowns that began in China in late January and spread to the U.S., Europe and elsewhere have wiped out millions of jobs, plunging the world into its most painful economic slump since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The International Monetary Fund expects the global economy to contract by an unprecedented 3% this year — a far bigger loss than 2009's 0.1% after the global financial crisis.

South Korea's Moon called for "public solidarity" to revitalize the economy. "Government efforts alone aren't enough," he said.

On Saturday, Trump supporters protested in several states demanding governors end controls on public activ-

ity even as new case numbers surge.

The president on Twitter urged his supporters to "liberate" three states with Democratic governors.

Texas, Indiana and some other states have announced plans to allow some retailing and other activity to resume. Florida and South Carolina are reopening beaches.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has criticized the federal response as inadequate, rejected pressure to reopen businesses.

New York's daily death toll fell below 550 on Saturday for the first time in two weeks, but Cuomo said hospitals are reporting nearly 2,000 new patients a day.

"We are not at a point when we are going to be reopening anything immediately," Cuomo told reporters.

Trump, whose administration waited months to add to stockpiles of key medical supplies and equipment, appeared to support protesters.

"LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" "LIBERATE VIRGINIA," Trump said on Twitter. He lashed out at Cuomo, saying he "should spend more time 'doing' and less time 'complaining.'"

US, UK condemn HK arrests of democracy advocates

HONG KONG (AP)—The United States condemned the arrests of at least 14 veteran pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong on charges of joining massive anti-government protests last year, saying the police action jeopardizes a high degree of autonomy guaranteed the southern Chinese city.

Among those arrested Saturday were 81-year-old activist and former lawmaker Martin Lee and democracy advocates Albert Ho, Lee Cheuk-yan and Au Nok-hin. Police also arrested media tycoon Jimmy Lai, who founded the local newspaper Apple Daily.

The sweeping crackdown amid a coronavirus pandemic is based on charges of unlawful assembly stemming from huge rallies against proposed China extradition legislation that exposed deep divisions between democracy-minded Hong Kongers and the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing.

The bill—which would have allowed the residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to be sent to mainland to stand trial—has been

withdrawn, but the protests continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

While the protests began peacefully, they increasingly descended into violence after demonstrators became frustrated with the government's response. They feel that Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has ignored their demands and used the police to suppress them.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement condemned the arrests.

"Beijing and its representatives in Hong Kong continue to take actions inconsistent with commitments made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration that include transparency, the rule of law, and guarantees that Hong Kong will continue to 'enjoy a high degree of autonomy,'" Pompeo said. He was referring to the 1997 handover of the former British colony to China, which promised the city would enjoy political freedoms not afforded mainland China.

Attorney General William

Barr also weighed in with a statement saying these events show how "antithetical the values of the Chinese Communist Party are to those we share in Western liberal democracies. These actions—along with its malign influence activity and industrial espionage here in the United States—demonstrate once again that the Chinese Communist Party cannot be trusted."

Britain's Foreign Office also criticized the arrests, saying "the right to peaceful protest is fundamental to Hong Kong's way of life and as such is protected in both the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law."

Beijing has accused the U.S. and other Western countries of instigating the protests and insists they're China's internal affairs.

The Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong said police were enforcing the law against those suspected of organizing and participating in unauthorized assemblies, and foreign countries have no right to interfere, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

World

Orthodox churches empty for Easter amid pandemic

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Orthodox priests in much of Europe held Easter services in churches empty of parishioners because of restrictions imposed to block the spread of coronavirus.

In Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kyiv, priests at the services that began late Saturday night wore the elaborate robes that characterize Orthodoxy's most important holy day and choirs sang, but worshipers could only see them on TV or on-line broadcasts.

Police were deployed outside hundreds of churches in Ukraine to ensure that anyone who came to stand outside a service observed regulations calling for social distancing and banning large gatherings.

A small exception was made at the Pechersk monastery in Kyiv, where police allowed worshipers to enter the church one at a time, with the next person going inside when another left. About 100 people stood outside the monastery waiting to be let in.

The monastery, a major tourist attraction because of its extensive system of caves and catacombs, was closed under quarantine; more than 90 of its monks have been identified as infected with coronavirus and at least two have died.

Landmark Lebanese hotel folds amid virus, economic crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—One of Lebanon's landmark hotels that survived the country's bloody 15-year civil war and various other bouts of fighting is shutting down amid the country's economic crisis and coronavirus pandemic, a hotel executive said Saturday.

The prestigious, nearly 70-year-old Le Bristol was closed temporarily as part of national measures to combat the spread of the virus. But Pascale Selwan Tabet, executive assistant manager, said the uncertainty gripping the world because of the virus coupled with the unprecedented economic crisis in Lebanon forced the owners to shut it down for good.

Once a place where the country's socialites mixed with royalty, the grand hotel was famous for its ballroom parties and distinguished cuisine. It also boasted the country's first ice skating ring.



A priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Nazariy, wearing a face mask to protect against coronavirus, blesses family members on the Easter eve near their house in the village of Nove close to capital Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April, 18, 2020.

The monastery belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is loyal to the Russian Orthodox Church and is one of two rival Orthodox denominations in Ukraine. The church's leader drew criticism after suggesting that worshipers could gather outside while services were conducted rather than staying at home.

That statement increased tensions with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which last year was granted autocephaly by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Orthodoxy's prime authority, displacing the Russia-affiliated church.

In Georgia, some churches were open to worshipers, but only if they committed themselves to arriving before

the country's 9 p.m. curfew started and remaining there until the curfew lifts at 6 a.m. About 100 people showed up to do that the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the capital Tbilisi, where marks were placed on the floor so that people would observe distancing.

All churches in greater Moscow, St. Petersburg and many Russian regions have been closed since Monday, although some churches in remote regions were expected to have services with parishioners attending.

Russian Orthodox leader Patriarch Kirill led the church's main service at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral. In an Easter epistle, he called on his flock not to be discouraged by being unable to attend services.

The hotel's original design mixed eastern and modern styles preserved in a two-year renovation that added a contemporary touch. It is owned by the Doumet family, one of Lebanon's richest.

An official announcement of the closure, which affects around 120 employees, is expected next week, Tabet said. The hotel's past and current staff already began posting messages of farewell on social media.

Lebanon has been facing its worst economic crisis in decades, with unemployment figures soaring and the local currency losing more than half of its value against the dollar. Protests broke out nationwide in October against government corruption, further deepening the economic slump.

In February, the head of the hotel owners association said occupancy has fallen to

between 10-15% in Beirut and much lower outside the capital. With the spread of the coronavirus, the country's only airport was shut down and the government ordered Lebanon's famous night clubs and restaurants to close, a major blow to the already staggering hospitality industry.

"The succession of these dramatic events in town and globally has impacted the hospitality industry. Then the coronavirus pandemic 'executed' the tourism industry," said Tabet.

The decision to close wasn't an easy one for the owners. In 2013 the hotel closed for two years to undergo a major renovation, reopening with a major party attended by the country's rich and famous and foreign dignitaries. The staff received their full salaries during those two years, Tabet said.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation



There's a feeling of accomplishment in running, writes Mike Vorel. There's perseverance and persistence that overwhelms the pathetic pain.

I am not a runner. And if you knew me, I would not need to tell you this. It would be immediately evident. It always has been. As a child, I was simultaneously oddly tall and improbably skinny—a lethal cocktail of long limbs and sharp edges and a seemingly unconquerable clumsiness. I was like a pale, uncoordinated Gumby. I was the teenage equivalent of a baby giraffe on roller skates that you pushed down a hill. I was former NBA center Shawn Bradley in “Space Jam,” after the aliens stole his talent.

heaving the desperate breaths of a boy who was arguably addicted to a daily diet of Double Stuf Oreos and chocolate milk. I'm certain that some irreplaceable part of me never left that track. It's still there, splayed out on its ethereal back, haunting upperclassmen and debating who to ask to homecoming.

But the rest of me is here. I took a job writing about sports for The Seattle Times in July 2018. And, in the past couple months, I've started to run. On purpose. For more than a mile. Just about every day.

How could I not? After all, the state of Washington's emergency

Olympic Mountains in the distance, jutting between the blues of the water and the sky.

It's beautiful.

I hate it.

OK, I don't hate it. Not exactly. Rather, it's become a backdrop inextricably associated with pain. My relationship with running is not unlike Lt. Jimmy Cross' relationship with Martha—the girl he helplessly loved while knowing, somewhere deep inside him, she would never feel the same—in Tim O'Brien's stirring Vietnam book, “The Things They Carried.”

“He hated her,” O'Brien wrote.

complishment. There's perseverance and persistence that overwhelms the pathetic pain.

In the first half of my run every morning, a voice reminds me—over the sound of old rap or electric guitar or, if we're being honest, Miley Cyrus' “Wrecking Ball”—that I could stop.

“You could walk the rest of the way,” says the persuasive sloth on my shoulder. “You could keep right on walking, for that matter, to Tacoma or California or Mexico. You could start a new life, with a new name and a new job and new hobbies where you never run again.”

I was never a runner. Now, to stay sane during coronavirus lockdown, I am running. And you can, too

By MIKE VOREL
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Which is all to say that, while I loved sports, I was aggressively mediocre at most of them. I played baseball and basketball and soccer and volleyball. For many years, I was on the swim team as well. I loved the competition, even when the competition often didn't love me.

But I didn't run. Once a year at Lockport High School in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, students were required to run—or jog, or walk, or crawl—a mile on the outdoor track that looped around the football field. And, once a year, it resulted in a pale, uncoordinated Gumby lying on his back maybe 10 minutes later,

stay-home order—which Gov. Jay Inslee extended through May 4 last week to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus—leaves few available exercise options. Plus, I recently moved into an apartment in Lower Queen Anne, across the street from the trails at Myrtle Edwards Park and the Olympic Sculpture Park—which brush picturesquely against the edges of the Puget Sound.

Every day, I wake, look out my window and see the sputtering parade of runners and bikers and dog-walkers, unknowingly guiltting me to get my butt out of bed. On clear days, I see the white tips of the

“Yes, he did. He hated her. Love, too, but it was a hard, hating kind of love.”

Every morning, I put on my running shoes—which was once an oxymoron—and, because I bought them in 2012, they currently have the traction and texture of a wet dolphin. I also wear a long-sleeve shirt, a dark-blue jacket, one of two pairs of gray shorts and the same black beanie. I'm telling you this in case I ever hurtle myself into the Sound and need to be identified after. It's a hard, hating kind of love, after all.

But I'm doing it, and there's pride in that as well. There's a feeling of ac-

But I don't. I keep right on running. In the endless monotony of a COVID-19 lockdown, running gives me a reason to crawl out of my suffocating stay-at-home cocoon. It gives me an ounce of personal freedom in what can feel like a helpless time.

So, no: I'm not a runner, but I run. And so can you.

And if you do, keep an eye out for a pale, uncoordinated Gumby, lying on his back in a black beanie and breathing heavily on the edge of the running trail. If you see him, say hello.

But please, for everyone's safety, stay at least 6 feet away.

DREAMTIME/TNS

COVID-19

GUIDANCE FOR THE MARIANAS



Stay at home, slow the spread

- **Please stay home** and avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.
- **If you feel sick or if someone in your home is sick**, stay home. Do not go to work. Avoid social gatherings. Contact your personal doctor or call the **COVID-19 Info Line** at 285-1542, 285-1672, 285-1352, or 285-1854.
- **If you are an older person (*man'amko*)**, you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.
- **If you are a person with a preexisting illness (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease)**, you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.
- **Work or do schoolwork from home** whenever possible and reasonable.
- **Avoid social gatherings** in groups of more than 10.
- **Avoid eating out** at restaurants, use **drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options**.
- **Continue practicing good hygiene:**
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Disinfect frequently used items (cellphones, computers, household items) as much as possible.

Source: Office of the Governor

Life & Style

Taylor Swift has canceled all shows, appearances for 2020

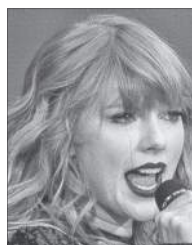
NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift is canceling all of her performances and appearances for the rest of the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With many events throughout the world already cancelled, and upon direction from health officials in an effort to keep fans safe and help prevent the spread

of COVID-19, sadly the decision has been made to cancel all Taylor Swift live appearances and performances this year," Swift's representative said in a statement released Friday.

Among the shows canceled was a July performance that would have opened

SoFi Stadium, the new home of the NFL's Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams franchises in Inglewood, California. Swift would have become the first woman to open an



Swift

NFL stadium, organizers said.

The statement said Swift's U.S. and Brazil shows will take place next year, explaining that tickets for those shows "will transfer to a new show date

without action on the part of ticket holders." The dates for Swift's 2021 shows will be announced this year.

Those seeking refunds for Swift's "Lover Fest" U.S. tour dates "will be available starting May 1, subject to Ticketmaster terms," the statement read.

Pitbull launches new song to inspire during the pandemic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pitbull is looking to uplift his fans around the world with a new dance anthem.

The singer has teamed up with the Saban Music Group to release "I Believe That We Will Win" in the hope of turning the word fear into a positive.

"Fear is either you can forget everything and run, or you can face everything and rise. And we're going to face everything and rise," said the Grammy-winner, who is among the hundreds of artists who have canceled or postponed concerts due to the coronavirus.

"Things being canceled, to me, wasn't the first thing on my mind. The first thing on my mind was how do we help the public, how do we help society? How do we help the world get through something like this," he said. "And not only that, to be able to look at it from different angles.

"We need people out there to stay strong mentally in order for their body to be able to fight this," he said.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the single will



Pitbull

go to the charities Feeding America and the Tony Robbins Foundation.

Pitbull, whose real name is Armando Christian Perez, says he's "staying healthy and staying strong" but that he's never seen his hometown of Miami so quiet.

"What you do see is, believe it or not, more people exercising," he said, noting that they're staying far apart. "The people that are out they're just trying to be productive one way or another. I think that everybody down here has done a great job."

The recording artist also has 11 charter schools called SLAM (Sports Leadership and Management) in cities such as Miami, Las Vegas, San Antonio, Atlanta, Tampa, Orlando and Phoenix. Pitbull says he's proud of how quickly the staff, students and parents were able to adapt to remote learning.

"We didn't know what was going to happen and how we're going to pull it off," he said. He said everyone involved—administrators, teachers, parents and students—have been "overachieving."

'Outlander' star Sam Heughan speaks out against online abuse

HONOLULU (AP)—"Outlander" star Sam Heughan spoke out on social media about what he calls "six years of constant bullying, harassment, stalking and false narratives" about him.

The 39-year-old Scottish actor said in a lengthy post on his Instagram and Twitter accounts Thursday that he's been subjected to a range of claims that he has misled and tried to extort fans for money.

Heughan said the criticism has come to a head over his isolating in Hawaii during the coronavirus outbreak. He said he traveled to Hawaii before situation grew serious.

"I'm nervous to take 3-5 flights back to the UK, around 20 hours on several planes, exposing myself to more danger, to be stuck in a



Heughan

city," he said. "Upon the advice of everyone I trust, I decided to remain in a safe environment. It was a good decision."

The posts inspired the devoted fans of "Outlander" to start the hashtag #IStandWithSam, and he's received hundreds of tweets of support.

Heughan said he can not elaborate on most of the

abuse he has received for legal reasons, but said people in his position should not have to tolerate the hate they get on social media.

"As an actor in these time, we feel impotent," he said. "We can't do much but I have tried to use what leverage I have to provide a voice to charities that need it and hopefully a little entertainment or light relief. For those still unhappy I suggest you unfollow."

AWARD-WINNING PHOTO

This image released by World Press Photo on Thursday April 16, 2020, taken by Yasuyoshi Chiba, Agence France-Presse, won the World Press Photo of the Year award, and the first prize in the General News Singles category. It shows a young man, illuminated by mobile phones, recite protest poetry while demonstrators chant slogans calling for civilian rule, during a black-out in Khartoum, Sudan, on 19 June 2019.

YASUYOSHI CHIBA, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/WORLD PRESS PHOTO VIA AP



Deepening dementia causes awkward social situations

DEAR ABBY: During the past year, my wonderful father-in-law was widowed and became unable to live alone. He lives with us now and is part of our daily life. However, he has dementia. He is still quite social and verbal. If you met him, you might not realize that his short-term memory rarely functions or that the filters this well-educated and proper man once had no longer work 24/7.

Recently, he has started ogling women and making comments about their physical attributes when we go grocery shopping or take a walk. He is also starting to confuse the women's roles in our household (me, my daughter, daughter-in-law and niece), which has become even more awkward. My daughter confided that he made a sexual comment about me. (I'm a middle-aged, no-nonsense kind of woman.)

How does one approach such a situation? We don't want someone slapping him—or worse. I can say, "That's not appropriate," then deflect or laugh it off at home, knowing he won't remember what he said 20 minutes later, but how do we make the best of these circumstances without diminishing his outside social experiences? Moving him to a senior living community is not an option at this point for financial reasons.

CAREGIVER WITH A PROBLEM

DEAR CAREGIVER: It's time for you to contact the Alzheimer's Association. It offers guidance for caregivers like you. Changes in behavior caused by Alzheimer's and

other dementias are challenging. It's important to remember that these behaviors are the result of a damaged brain and not something the person is doing purposely.

If inappropriate behavior occurs in public, be consistent and kind, but firmly remind the person that the behavior is not OK. It may help to distract the person from the immediate situation by directing their attention elsewhere or giving them something else to do.

Caregivers can create "business cards" stating briefly, "My companion has dementia. Please be understanding." Caregivers would give these to hosts and hostesses when entering restaurants, or discreetly hand them to salespeople if situations start to deteriorate because the companion exhibits unusual behavior or lack of a verbal filter.

Be transparent with family and friends about the person with the disease. When they understand what's causing these behaviors and that the individual needs their help and compassion, they tend to be less reactive or judgmental. The Alzheimer's Association may be reached online (alz.org) or via the toll-free helpline (800-272-3900). Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teen living with a foot in each world. My parents are religious and don't approve of my sexuality (I am bisexual), and my peers harshly stereotype my beliefs. I feel rejected by both worlds, and I'm trying to make it until I'm 18 so I can leave the situation.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Lately, things have taken a turn for the worse. Both sides won't accept me until I am completely Christian or completely not Christian. Is there any advice you can give me?

TEEN IN TURMOIL

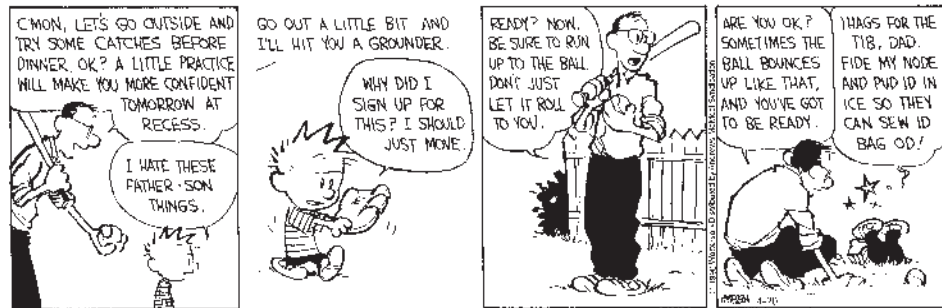
DEAR TEEN IN TURMOIL: Just this. You are a teenager. There are better days ahead for you. Your current circumstances may be unpleasant, but they won't last forever. If living your truth will result in your being shunned, do whatever you must to survive for now.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



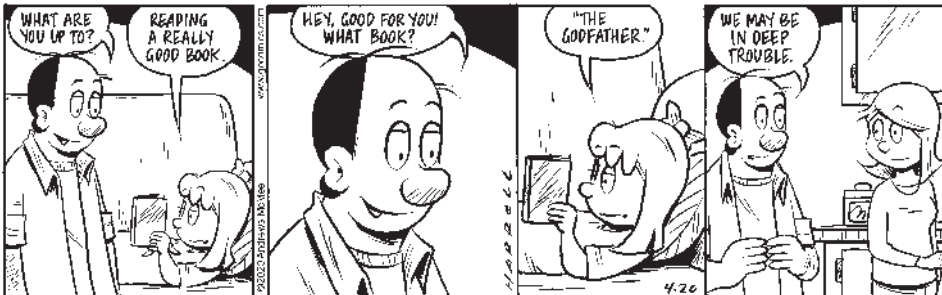
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Zealous group
5 Observe
8 Crop-growing tract
12 Culture medium
13 Web address
14 "Super-food" berry
15 Too
16 Protective glass cases
18 Blockhead
20 Tolerates
21 Jug handles
23 Sault — Marie
24 Prison roomie
28 "So be it"
31 Glamorous Gardner
32 Amtrak express
34 — -de-France
35 Gambling mecca
37 Revealing
39 French vineyard

DOWN

41 Teeming
42 "Good grief!"
45 Bamboo eaters
49 Good health
51 Prescribed amount
52 Big fusses
53 "Exodus" hero
54 Oil cartel
55 Memory unit
56 Insult, slangily
57 Tidy

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20 "—"

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Solution time: 22 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 04/20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Joey Lawrence, 44; Carmen Electra, 48; Jessica Lange, 71; Ryan O'Neal, 79.

Happy Birthday: Making changes that aren't necessary will set you back. Consider how to use your time and space wisely. Consumerism isn't the road to happiness. Decluttering, spending quality time with people who bring out the best in you and aiming for a stress-free life will bring you peace and joy. Personal growth and a healthy attitude will encourage better relationships. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 24, 31, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your relentless courage and determination to get things done will attract attention. Someone you interest will encourage you to expand your goals. Personal gain is apparent, and time spent on self-improvements will pay off. Romance is in the stars. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may feel overwhelmed by what you have to achieve, but once you start, you'll discover a way to keep the momentum going until you finish what you set out to do. Preparation and organization will help you stay on track. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust what someone tells you. Get the facts before you indulge in something that could turn in to a personal loss. Information is power, and using your intelligence to get ahead will make a difference to the outcome of a pending issue. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get things done on time. Look for alternative ways to streamline your plans. A modest ap-

proach to whatever you do will help ward off any opposition. Don't let a change someone makes disrupt your plans. Live within your means. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Staying power will be required if you want to finish what you start. Refuse to let anyone talk you in to something you don't have the time or money to explore. Put your energy into self-improvement, education and spending time with someone special. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you encounter will change the way you think or do things. Make sure the motives behind whatever offer you receive are legitimate. Keep a clear head and a strict budget in mind. Patience will be required. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A quiet, observant approach to whatever you encounter today will pay off. Don't let your emotions be manipulated by someone who is out for his or her own benefit. Do your own thing to avoid conflict. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a different route, or engage in something new and exciting. The experience will help you achieve success. Anger is a waste of time and won't bring you closer to your objective. Look for the positive in everything and everyone. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home and to those you know and trust. Refuse to let someone interfere in your affairs or persuade you to take part in something unfamiliar to you. Focus on personal gains, not losses. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everyone will share your goals or your beliefs. Do yourself a favor and keep your plans a secret until you have enough information to warrant presenting your intentions. Check out an unusual offer with skepticism before you commit. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take pride in what you do, and present what you want to happen earnestly. A positive change at home will put your mind at ease and help you prepare for something you've wanted to do for a long time. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a moment to verify the information you receive before you start something new. You may have good intentions, but if you promise more than you can deliver, it will make you look bad. Don't take a risk or jeopardize your financial future. ***

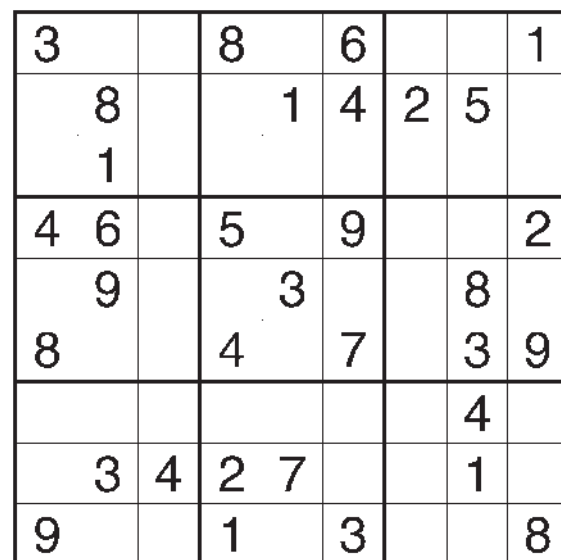
Birthday Baby: You are forceful, unpredictable and entertaining. You are innovative and protective.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

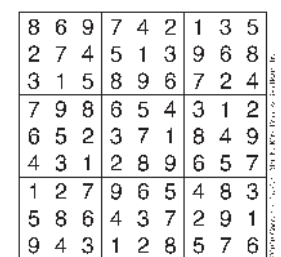
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

4/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

YOKOTA AIR BASE, JAPAN

Solution: 9 letters

S C I T S I G O L E A D E R S
P P E E O G R A C A D E M Y D
A C S T M C O F F I C E R R I
C O D E I I A S E R V I C E P
I M S S L S S R G U A R D R A
F B T T R U C S E V R E S E R
I A A N I E C H I E F A M L M
C T I F E N T R I O R C A I N
D C L U B M U P E O N T R E O
E L A S M N P O O H L I G F R
F O I S W A L I I C R V O N D
E S Y A I O E N U D I E R O A
N N Y K M A H T E Q A L P R U
S E C R O F I G H T E R E U Q
E L S R E T R A U Q D A E H S

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4/20

Academy, Active, Asia, Career, Cargo, Chief, Club, Code, Combat, Defense, Equipment, Fighter, Forces, Fussa, Guard, Headquarters, Helicopters, Help, Huron, Leaders, Logistics, Mail, Medical, Mission, Officer, Pacific, Programs, Radio, Rapid, Relief, Reserve, Runway, School, Service, Site, Squadron, Super Hercules, Tail, Team, Tokyo, Units

Last Friday's Answer: Cut

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Big 3 to help lower-ranked players

PARIS—Novak Djokovic said on Saturday that he, Roger Federer, and Rafael Nadal are organizing aid for players struggling with the paralysis of the game due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I spoke to Roger and Rafa a few days ago," Djokovic, the world No. 1, said in an Instagram chat with friend and rival Stan Wawrinka on Saturday.

"We had a long conversation about the near future of tennis, what is going to happen, how we can contribute and how we can help especially lower-ranked players, who are obviously struggling the most."

"The majority of the players who are ranked between 200, 250 in the world, and the 700th or 1,000th do not have federation support, do not have sponsors. They are completely independent and left alone," he said.

"Guys who are ranked between 200-250, especially to 700...are thinking of leaving tennis right now."

He said players, the ATP and the four Grand Slams "would all get together and will contribute to a player relief fund that ATP will distribute."

"It looks, hopefully, that there will something between \$3 million (2.75 million euros) and \$4.5 million that is going to be distributed," he estimated.

Djokovic said the cash could come from the prize money for the season-ending World Tour Finals or the final bonus pools for top players.

"Maybe if we don't have any tournaments this season, we can take a certain percentage from our prize money from Australian Open in January," he said.



From left, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal are organizing aid for players struggling with the paralysis of the game due to the coronavirus pandemic. AP

"These guys are the grass roots of tennis. The future of tennis. We need to show them they still can rely on support of the top guys."

According to reports in tennis media, Djokovic, as president of the ATP Players' Council, which also includes Federer and Nadal, proposed to members that players in the top 100 for singles and the top 20 in doubles contribute according to their rankings.

The proposed scale runs from \$30,000 for a top-five player to \$5,000 for those between 51 and 100.

That would raise approximately \$1 million and the ATP

would make a similar contribution.

On Friday, ATP chief Andrea Gaudenzi echoed the call for unity on the tour website.

"Our guys are at home, obviously unable to play, unable to earn money and financially struggling, so we will try to help," he said, adding that the ATP faced the problem of not knowing how long the crisis would last and how much revenue it would lose.

"I've been quite touched by the top players who reached out, the big names expressing their desire of helping the lower-ranked players and putting

those players first. We are also talking with the Grand Slams about it. They may want to join in the effort. I think it would be a great message for the sport," he added.

World tennis has been at a standstill since the beginning of March and will not resume until mid-July at the earliest following the postponement of Roland Garros and the cancellation of Wimbledon.

Matches at academies

Both Nadal and Serena Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou announced plans on Saturday to stage matches at their tennis academies.

With top-level professional tennis shut down until at least July 13, both academies said they were examining the possibility of staging and broadcasting matches so fans could watch remotely.

While the Rafael Nadal academy, based on the Spanish island of Mallorca, said on its website that it was in talks with the ATP on how to proceed, Mouratoglou released a statement unveiling a planned "league" of 50 matches at his academy near Nice in the south of France and talking of "millions of US dollars in prize money".

The Nadal Academy said it

was considering becoming "a campus where elite players can reside, train and compete between themselves in matches that will be televised so that fans around the world can enjoy them."

It said Nadal had originated the idea and that the academy had been in talks with ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi.

"Right now tennis takes a back seat and the most important thing is everyone's health, but if in the coming months the Academy can be used to help other professional players, I'd be delighted if they could come to train and also to compete," Nadal said.

NBA players to receive 25% less in paychecks



NEW YORK—Commissioner Adam Silver said it remains impossible for the NBA to make any decisions about whether to resume this season and that it is unclear when that will change.

But in a clear sign that at least some of the 259 remaining regular-season games that were not played because of the coronavirus pandemic will not be rescheduled, the league announced Friday it will withhold 25% of player pay starting with their May 15 checks.

Silver, speaking after the league's regularly scheduled April board of governors meeting—one that took place through video conferencing and not the usual in-person setting in New York—said all options remain on the

table for trying to resume play and eventually crowning a champion.

"I think there is a sense that we can continue to take the leading role as we learn more in coming up with an appropriate regimen and protocol for returning to business," Silver said. "There's a recognition from (owners) that this is bigger than our business; certainly, bigger than sports."

The salary decision was made in concert with the National Basketball Players Association, the league saying it would "provide players with a more gradual salary reduction schedule" if games are officially canceled or the rest of the season is totally lost.

Players will be paid in full on May 1. The cutback in salary has been expected for some time in response to the NBA's

shutdown that started March 11, and has no end in sight.

Silver said the league will weigh several factors as it continues to try to save the season, among them whether the infection rate of COVID-19 comes down nationally, the availability of large-scale testing and progress on the path toward a vaccine.

"All these team owners are in this business because they love the game," Silver said. "They love the competition, and I know from my conversations with players they feel the same way. But when you're dealing with human life, that trumps anything else we could possibly talk about. That's really where the conversation began and ended today."

Team owners and NBA officials heard from Disney chairman Bob Iger during the

call to discuss his company's response to the pandemic, as well as from Dr. David Ho of Columbia University. Ho is an expert on viral epidemics and worked with the NBA when Magic Johnson was diagnosed with HIV in 1991.

Silver said Iger shared that he's been often asked about a return to normalcy.

"To steal a line from Bob, when he was asked by several people about particular timelines, he said from his standpoint 'it's about the data, and not the date,'" Silver said.

The NBA playoffs would have started Saturday. If none of the 259 outstanding regular season games are played, the league's players would lose about \$800 million in gross salary.

Taking 25% out of checks on May 15—and, presumably,

checks on June 1 and June 15 should play not resume by then—would amount to players across the league missing \$40 million in each pay period.

The reduction in pay is in anticipation of what the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the league and its players describes as a "Force Majeure Event"—the legal term for unforeseeable circumstances, such as an epidemic or pandemic. Per the CBA, players could lose 1.08% of their annual salary for each game that is canceled. Silver said the shutdown means "revenues, in essence, have dropped to zero. That's having a huge financial impact on team business and arena business."

Meanwhile, there were 10 players known to have tested positive for coronavirus as of late March: four from the Brooklyn Nets including Kevin Durant, two from the

Los Angeles Lakers, Christian Wood of the Detroit Pistons, Marcus Smart of the Boston Celtics, and Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz.

More players have tested positive since, Silver said.

"For privacy reasons, we're not reporting" any other positive tests, Silver said.

Silver said there is no cutoff date in mind for a decision to be made about playing some games or calling everything off.

"All rules are off at this point during the situation we find ourselves in and the country is in," Silver said. "If there is an opportunity to resume play, even if it looks different than what we've done historically, we should be modeling it. We don't have a good understanding of exactly sort of what those standards are that we need to meet in order to move forward because the experts don't necessarily, either."

Cowboys eye cornerback, pass rusher in draft



TEXAS (AP)—The two biggest losses in free agency for the Dallas Cowboys were at cornerback and defensive end, so it's reasonable to list those as the club's top two priorities going into the draft.

Dallas is back in the first-round business with the 17th overall pick after sitting out opening night a year ago because of the 2018 midseason trade for receiver Amari Cooper, who recently signed a \$100 million, five-year contract.

The possibilities include Florida cornerback CJ Henderson and LSU edge rusher K'Lavon Chaisson. That's after cornerback Byron Jones (Miami) and 2019 Dallas sacks leader Robert Quinn (Chicago) signed elsewhere.

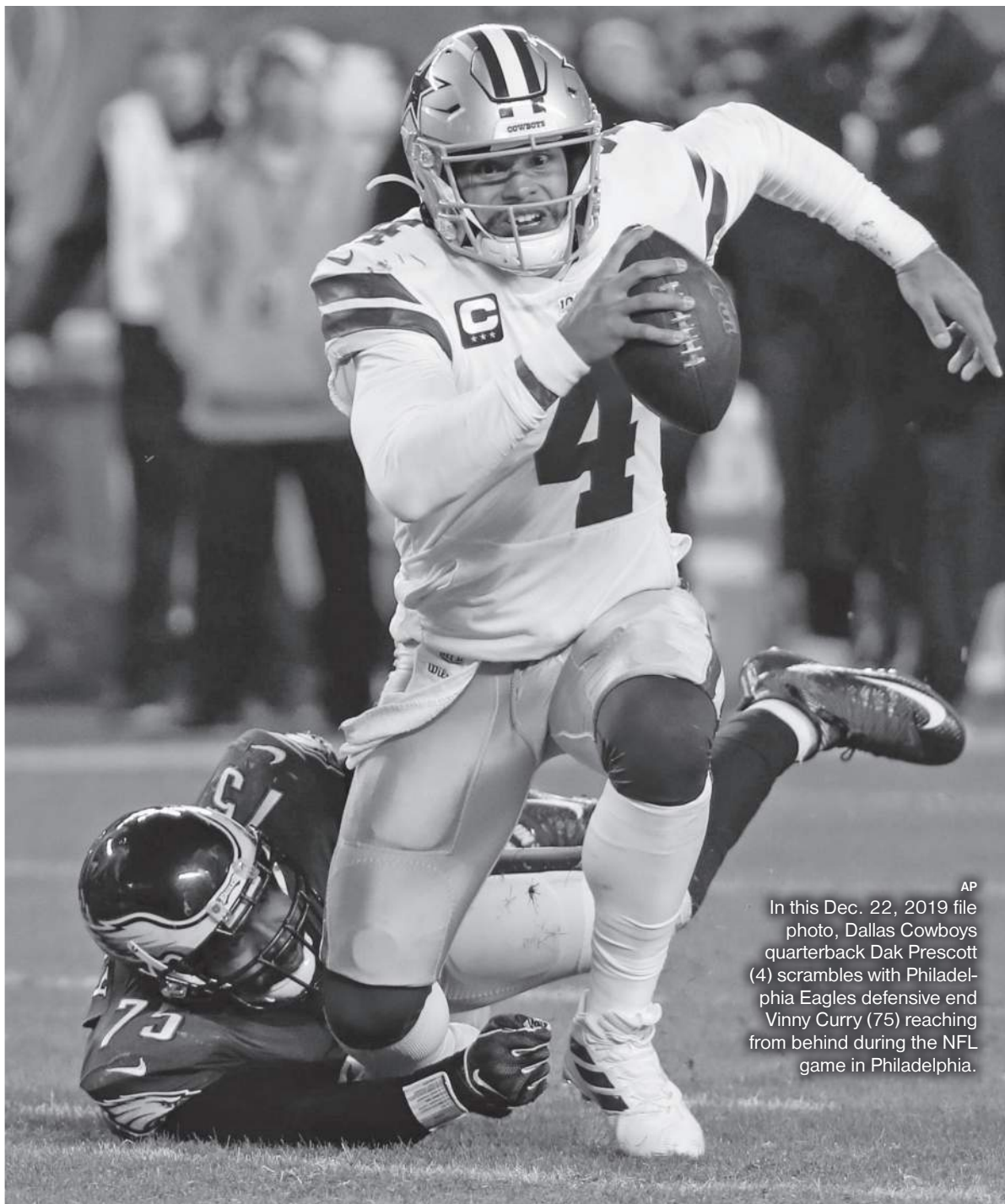
Safety has been a persistent need for the Cowboys in recent years, but it's been nearly 20 years since they drafted a prototypical safety in the first round. Dallas did add Ha Ha Clinton-Dix in free agency.

The Cowboys are headed in a new direction philosophically on defense under first-year coach Mike McCarthy, who was hired after Jason Garrett's contract wasn't renewed when Dallas fell short of lofty expectations by missing the playoffs.

Dallas added two free agents in prototypical nose tackle Dontari Poe and another big body for the interior of the defensive line in Gerald McCoy. And McCarthy has said he prefers finding ways for the best available players to fit.

"I'm not a believer in you're one player away or two players away from winning a championship," McCarthy said at the scouting combine. "I'm really looking forward to coaching a more experienced football team, but that rookie class is so important."

The wild card for the pass rushing needs is the availability of Aldon Smith and Randy Gregory. Both are seeking reinstatement from suspensions with the more lenient policy



AP
In this Dec. 22, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) scrambles with Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Vinny Curry (75) reaching from behind during the NFL game in Philadelphia.

on marijuana in the new labor deal. Dallas signed Smith to a one-year deal even though he hasn't played since 2015.

Assuming quarterback Dak Prescott eventually has a new contract either through the franchise tag

or a long-term deal, the Cowboys are in the market for his next slot receiver after Randall Cobb left for Houston in free agency.

While it's a deep draft at receiver and it's not out of the question Dallas could use a first-round pick

there, the signing of Cooper and the steady progress of third-year man Michael Gallup mean that spot isn't a desperate need.

The Cowboys likely won't be rushing to replace Travis Frederick in the early rounds after the 29-year-under

center surprisingly retired last month.

They drafted Connor McGovern in the third round last year believing his value was higher, and McGovern played some center at Penn State. He didn't play as a rookie because of a torn arm muscle.

Dallas also re-signed Joe Looney, who filled in for Frederick the entire 2018 season when the Cowboys won a playoff game for the first time with Prescott and star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

It appears Jason Witten's time in Dallas is finished once and for all. He returned last season after a year in retirement as a broadcaster in 2018, still as the No. 1 tight end but without the same tight grip on the top spot.

Now that he's gone again, the Cowboys appear ready to let Blake Jarwin take the lead role after signing Witten's former backup to a four-year contract. But he doesn't fit the mold of a blocking tight end.

While Dallas signed Blake Bell in free agency and still has 2018 fourth-round pick Dalton Schultz on the roster, adding a tight end in the draft isn't out of the question.

The top of the depth chart doesn't indicate an immediate issue for the Cowboys at linebacker. But questions linger.

Leighton Vander Esch, a first-rounder in 2018, was limited to nine games last season by a neck injury that required surgery and could threaten his career. He is on track to return, though.

Jaylon Smith wasn't quite as dynamic in 2019 after showing a complete recovery from a devastating college knee injury that sidelined him as a rookie in the NFL. His strong 2018 season earned him a \$64 million, five-year extension last August.

Sean Lee is back for an 11th season and offers a solid veteran presence around Vander Esch and Smith, but injuries have plagued his career. Add it all up, and linebacker is a position that could use some help in the draft.

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Soccer is pushing back restarting the season to at least June 8 and says it is also discussing possible salary cuts with the players' union.

Teams had played two matches before the season was suspended on March 12 because of the coronavirus pandemic and the league had been looking at possibly resuming play in mid-May. The league would still like to play a full season.

MLS also said it is exploring possible "changes to player compensation" because of the financial hit the league and teams are facing.

We are seeking to work collaboratively with the MLSPA to find a solution that provides a safety net for all players, opportunity to earn full salary in the scenario where all matches are played with fans, and in particular provides protection for the players at the lower end of the salary scale, the league

MLS pushes back season, suggests salary cuts

said in a statement Friday.

The Major League Soccer Players' Association did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Possible salary cuts of as much as 50% for some players were first reported by ESPN, which cited sources. But those cuts would only kick in if games or the season were canceled.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that players would not be furloughed. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is not being made public.

MLS and the players' union agreed to terms of a new contract in early February, but it had not been ratified when the season was put on hold.

The league has long maintained that it prefers to play a full season. Possible scenarios

include extending play into December and canceling

non-league matches like the Leagues Cup between MLS and Liga MX teams. Games could also be played without fans in attendance.

5-week video game tournament

Sporting Kansas City midfielder Wan Kuzain is more than your average gamer. He's got street cred.

That's because when he was 17, Kuzain accepted a challenge from noted video game enthusiast (and former NFL player) Chad Johnson—and beat him.

The former Pro Bowler known as Ochocinco tweeted afterward that the losing experience was worse than the time I lost my virginity and added a

crying emoji.

So it's no surprise that Kuzain will be Sporting's representative in a virtual MLS tournament starting Sunday. A number of the league's top players, including Chicharito and Nani, will participate in the nationally televised event.

It goes like this: Two players from opposing teams will face off in EA Sports' FIFA 2020 game. Then the league's eMLS players will compete in a second leg. The losing team is eliminated. Fox Sports soccer commentators will call the action over the five-week event.

Other sports have also moved to virtual competition during the coronavirus pandemic, notably NASCAR. Like the already established eMLS competition, NASCAR

had an iRacing Series for gamers. Drivers joined when COVID-19 suspended real races.

Individual athletes, including Meyers Leonard of the Miami Heat and Women's World Cup winner Allie Long, are also playing regularly on Twitch, a live streaming platform. The Phoenix Suns played out the season after the season was suspended on NBA 2K20 on Twitch.

One of the highlights Sunday will be a virtual 'El Trafico' rivalry match, pitting LA Galaxy striker Javier Hernandez, better known as Chicharito, against LAFC forward Adama Diomande.

MLS Works and FOX Sports will make a donation on behalf of the winning team to Feeding America after each episode. Donations will also be made to Food Banks Canada.

"You'll see in some instances we've got some real gamers among our professional players. They're going to show up to win. So while it is a great cause, we're also out to entertain. I think you'll see a real competitive edge come through as well," said Camilo Durana, the league's senior vice president of properties and events.

Now 21, Kuzain said he's been playing FIFA since the 2012 edition.

Kuzain was part of Sporting's academy team before he was signed to the team's USL affiliate, the Swope Park Rangers.

One day around that time he noticed that Chad Johnson was in the Kansas City area. Johnson was known at the time for dropping in on random gamers to play FIFA, so Kuzain—who had a picture of himself playing soccer on his Twitter profile—tweeted at him. The next thing he knew, Johnson was at his door.

Puig in no rush to sign; does not think MLB will open

LOS ANGELES—Nearly six months after becoming a free agent, Yasiel Puig says he's no closer to signing a contract.

Given the current circumstances, he doesn't think that will change anytime soon.

In a recent interview with Jorge Ebro of El Nuevo Herald, the former Los Angeles Dodgers, Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians outfielder opened up on how the coronavirus pandemic and Major League Baseball's subsequent shutdown has impacted his free agency.

Among the notable talking points: Puig revealed that he's in no rush to sign given the uncertainty in the world and specifically around baseball. In fact, Puig indicated his focus is slowly turning toward 2021.

While MLB continues looking for solutions to resume play in 2020, Puig has accepted that a return is growing increasingly unlikely. With so much uncertainty in the world—and even with the uncertainty that surrounds his own career—he feels now is “not a time to think about baseball.”

“Everyone knows I don't have a team right now, but that doesn't worry me. We are in a time of pandemic, which is much worse than if Yasiel Puig does not have a team,” he said. “Someday I will sign. I don't know which team, but it's not a time to think about baseball.”

“We hope to play in 2021. I don't think there will be baseball in 2020, but if there is, we will be on some team. I have to stay positive. If the corona-



virus has not made me negative, nothing will make me negative.”

If baseball does return in 2020, it will possibly be without fans. It will also likely be an abbreviated season.

That all plays a role in Puig's outlook.

As profitable as MLB teams are, they will all look for ways to cut costs since they're not getting a return. Puig would have to accept a one-year deal for far less money than he's seeking, or hope for a multi-year deal that makes it worthwhile.

With teams reportedly unwilling to extend multi-year offers for Puig over the winter, his immediate outlook is not great.

Despite the not-so-optimistic outlook, Puig doesn't have any regrets about turning down the Marlins during the offseason.

Miami was one of the more interesting—and surprising—teams reportedly connected to Puig. The interest was genuine, but the offer was not impressive enough to entice the 29-year-old veteran.

“There are other teams that are not the Marlins at the moment,” Puig said. “They were among the first to offer me. I did not agree with the financials. I asked for a little more to play in front of my Cubans, close to my homeland. But it is also difficult. I was six years

with the Dodgers. It is another hobby. There, my Mexicans adore me, they appreciate me. I don't have to hit 5-5.”

Given the Marlins spending history, it's no surprise Puig wasn't moved by the offer. It does, however, confirm one important thing: Puig is not going to give out discounts or settle for anything less than he feels he's worth. If that means going unsigned through 2020, so be it.

But it does beg one question: What will Yasiel Puig's value be in 2021? Without an opportunity to boost his value in 2020, why would next winter be any different for him?

Puig's talent is undeniable.

No team will question that. But his play isn't always consistent with that talent because his focus isn't always where it needs to be.

In 2019, Puig slashed .267/.327/.458 with 24 home runs and 84 RBIs between Cincinnati and Cleveland. That's a solid season for most players. For Puig, it feels underwhelming. Teams won't pay what Puig seemingly wants for underwhelming or unpredictable.

Until that perception changes, Puig will have a difficult time finding what he wants. And a lost season makes it impossible to change the perception.

In this Sept. 26, 2019 file photo, Cleveland Indians right fielder Yasiel Puig gets ready at bat against the Chicago Cubs during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Chicago.

Indians manager intrigued by options to start season

Meanwhile, Indians manager Terry Francona is intrigued by some of the options being thrown by Major League Baseball to start the season at some point.

He's also accepting it won't look like anything anyone has seen.

Speaking from his home in Arizona on Thursday, Francona said he's confident any decision made by MLB will be guided by safety precautions and that health and wellness—for players and fans—will be the top priority.

“If you see baseball at some point, that means that our country is coming back to a sense of normalcy, which is great,” said Francona, now in his seventh season in Cleveland after eight in Boston. “And then for us to have a season, we're all going to have to be willing to be flexible, because it's just not going to happen like -- you're not going to have a normal baseball season. It's just not possible.”

Earlier this week, Commissioner Rob Manfred said MLB will “turn over every stone” while exploring the possibilities of having a 2020 season. One of the plans being discussed is basing all 30 teams in the Phoenix area and using spring training ballparks as well as Chase Field (home of the Diamondbacks) as well as college facilities for games.

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to inspire and motivate each other. I'm also motivated by them,” Mita said.

The Blue Ayuyus are moving forward with their training regimen to get ready for the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2021 Round 1, which is supposed to be held in July and September, but has been pushed back to a later date. Changes in the schedule has been made after the Asian Football Confederation and Fédération Internationale de Football Association announced last week that matches and tournaments during the March and June 2020 window will be postponed to October and November this year. The new schedule of the EAFF event will be released once FIFA and AFC have decided on the revised dates for the affected matches.

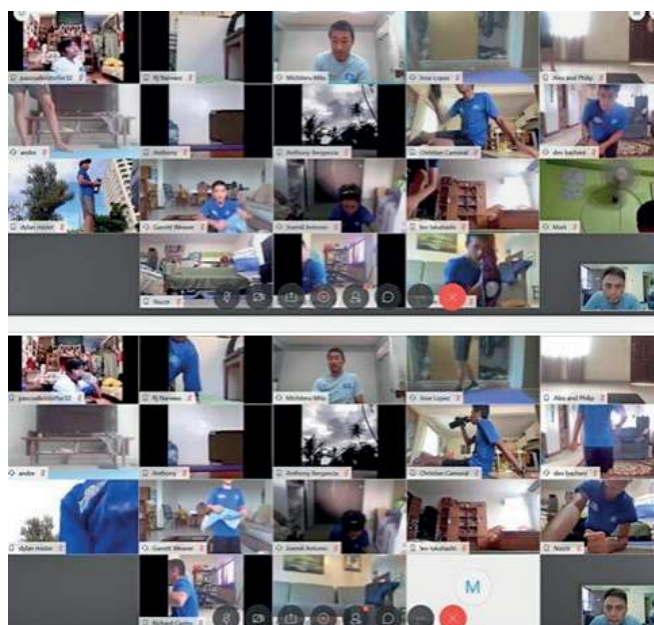
Mita upon learning about the postponement took it as another challenge that the Blue Ayuyus can hurdle.



A video grab shows Dai Podziewski being creative with his workout using a chair.

“It's good that EAFF will still try to hold the tournament and just move the date because

the worst case scenario is cancellation. We are working hard for this tournament because



CNMI coaches and players meet online to perform and monitor training drills.

joining an international competition and representing the CNMI is always the biggest motivation for our players,” the Blue Ayuyus coach said.

“Our players understand this and they also understand how to get through these difficult times because they

have learned from their tough games. They have also learned from the past typhoon (Yutu). Players overcome these trials and always come back stronger. That's way I believe whatever challenges they face they will just keep moving forward,” Mita said.

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them not only to become better basketball players, but also to be better gentlemen,” said the older Mercado, who like Diaz volunteers their time to the club to look out for the young players.

“Because of our current situation, coach Joe and I guide our players through the use of technology. Times are hard and just got harder, but we will continue to help our kids and see their progress,” the U12 coach said.

Besides his son, other members of the Rollers U12 crew are Jared Villagomez, Rance Surla, Eros and Kian Estolas, Arturo Travilla, Quinn Palacios, Marlon Bautista, Franklin Errich, Greg Perez, Derick Tenoerio, Payton Pangelian, Kern Han, Moris Atalig, Julian Laitan, Daniel Sano, and Christian Lucero.



**Big 3 to help
lower-ranked
players**

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**Cowboys eye
cornerback,
pass rusher
in draft**

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Blue Ayuyus moving forward



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Anthony Fruit, second left, battles a Guam player for possession during their game in last year's Marianas Cup at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Players of the CNMI Men's National Team have been through many lessons and challenges on and off the pitch that moving forward with their preparation for an international tournament amid this coronavirus pandemic has become natural for them.

More than 20 players have been practicing drills and working out on their own at home since their regular training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville were suspended last month due to the COVID-19 crisis. Off-island players have also been participating in the online training workout programs devised by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's pool of coaches with inputs from BBJ Athletics' Jerry Diaz.

"It's a very hard time for everyone right now. Players and their families, and the CNMI's safety is our first priority," said NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach



Michiteru Mita when asked about coming up with a system to continue their training sessions while following the government's guidelines on social distancing and other safety precautions against the pandemic.

"Even at this difficult time, our players are not stopping with their workout while ensuring that they are following the government's orders," he added.

Coaches send workout drills for players to follow, while members also shoot videos of their personal workout to exchange ideas with those involved in the program.

"They post in our group chat their workout and diet

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Rollers U12: We learn as one

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Members of the Rollers Basketball Club's U12 team have screen time three times a week.

Nope. They are not for online games. Actually, they are—but in preparation for actual ones—when it's safe to go out and play basketball.

With social distancing in effect and big crowd events, such as games and training sessions barred, Rollers U12 players have now switched to technology to continue working on their skills.

Team captain Michael Mercado Jr. and his 14 teammates are working on their skills for about 30 to 40 minutes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, following instructional videos shared by RBC founder and head coach Joe Diaz and U12 coach Mike Mercado.

Diaz said that though players can work on the drills on their own free time, he and Mike still schedule to perform the drills every 5:30pm so they can practice together and learn from

each other's mistakes.

Michael, who joined RBC when he was just 10 years old, loves the dribbling drills.

"It's difficult, especially for me, when I am learning how to do it with my left hand. But when you get use to it, it's fun. I love it when our coaches tell me that I am doing the drills right," the Mt. Carmel School student said.

He added that practicing basketball drills is one of the best things to do at this time when people are not allowed to go out.

"It gives me an opportunity to exercise and stay fit while improving my skills and having the right mindset for the game," Michael said.

Mike added that having "online" drills will help his son, Michael, and his teammates continue their bond.

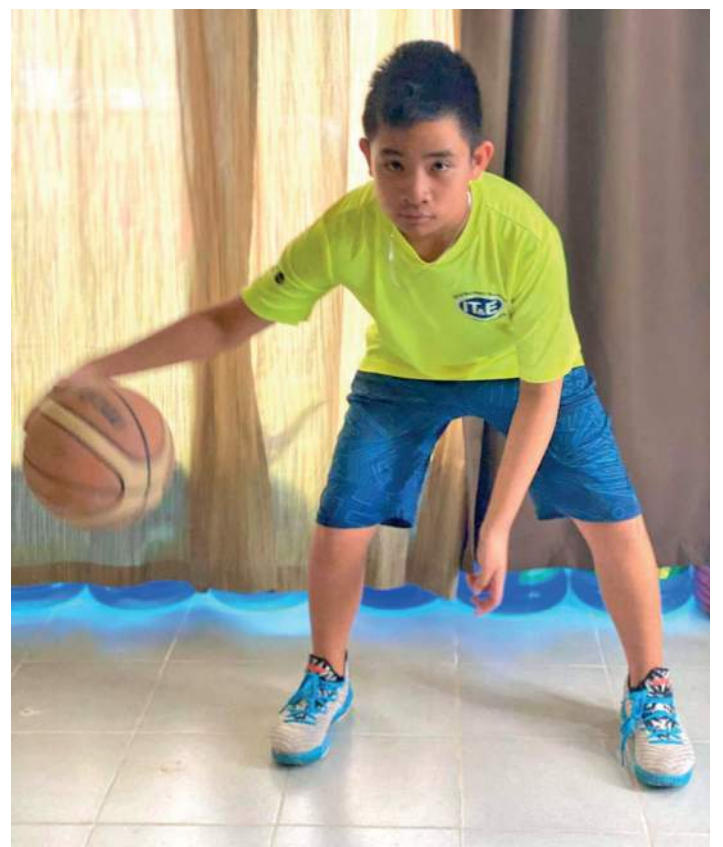
"At a young age it's impressive how our U12 boys share a bond all because of basketball. I think the main reason is because we held consistent practices and enforced strict guidelines to groom

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers Basketball Club U12 coach Mike Mercado, top right photo, watches the video of their two players during their online workout last week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Mercado Jr. practices his dribbling skills during an online workout with his fellow Rollers Basketball Club U12 players last week.